

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE: December 22 – December 29, 2019

Sunday:

9:00 a.m. Worship Service w/communion (broadcast on KOWZ 1170 AM/106.3 FM)
10:00 a.m. Fellowship, Coffee & Treats
10:15 am Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study
7:00 p.m. Youth Group "CROSSFIRE" Event @ Trinity Janesville

Monday:

10:00 a.m. Bible Class w/Pastor Griffin (parish hall)

Tuesday:

Church Office Closed

6:00 p.m. Candlelight Worship Service
Organist: Cindy Wood Acolyte: Koltyn Quillen
Radio Monitor: Ron Wood Elders: Bob Roemhildt, Jim Wyffels

Wednesday:

Church Office Closed

9:00 a.m. Christmas Day Worship Service
Organist: Kaleb Schmidt Acolyte: Wyatt Schroeder
Radio Monitor: Ron Wood Elders: Bob Roemhildt

Thursday:

6:30 p.m. Bible Breakfast @ Jonnie Beans
1:00 p.m. Holy Communion @ Colony Court

Friday:

Pastor Griffin's Day Off

5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Hot Beef Commercials & Pie @ American Legion (Youth Mission Trip)

Sunday:

9:00 a.m. Worship Service w/communion (broadcast on KOWZ 1170 AM/106.3 FM)
10:00 a.m. Fellowship, Coffee & Treats
10:15 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study
8:00 p.m. Youth Lock-in until 8:00 a.m. Monday

SERVING THE LORD IN OUR WORSHIP SERVICE:

THIS WEEK:

ORGANIST: Cindy Wood
ACOLYTE: Leeland Nusbaum
ELDER: Jerry Flogstad, Bob Roemhildt
DEACON: Jim Wyffels
RADIO MONITOR: Cindy Gilmore

NEXT WEEK:

ORGANIST: Kaleb Schmidt
ACOLYTE: Joseph Schumacher
ELDER: Jerry Flogstad, Bob Roemhildt
DEACON: Jim Wyffels
RADIO MONITOR: Kathy Lenz



Fourth Sunday of Advent

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH - (MISSOURI SYNOD)

314 - 4th Ave NE | Waseca, Minnesota 56093
Phone: 835-2647 | Email: stpaulwa@hickorytech.net
Church Office Hours: 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM (Monday – Friday)

SUNDAY MORNINGS:

- ✚ Worship Service: 9:00 a.m. (Broadcast on KOWZ 1170 AM/106.3 FM)
- ✚ Fellowship/Coffee: 10:00 a.m.
- ✚ Sunday School: 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.
- ✚ Adult Bible Study: 10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Rev. Dr. Larry Griffin, Intentional Interim Pastor

Mobile Phone: (507) 420-2236
Email: pastorgriffin54@gmail.com

Rev. Dr. Giles Zimmer, Visitation Pastor

Home Phone: 833-5619

“The mission of St. Paul Lutheran Church is to provide opportunities through which everyone might be made aware of their Savior Jesus Christ, nurture a strong foundation of faith, and receive the Sacrament regularly as directed by our Savior Jesus Christ.”

WELCOME! WE ARE GLAD YOU ARE HERE! If you are a visitor, we look forward to visiting with you today and in the near future. Please write your name, address, and phone number in the black soul care book (located in the pew). We invite you to fellowship, coffee & treats following the worship service. Sunday School begins at 10:15 a.m. and Adult Bible Study begins at 10:30 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:



Today's radio broadcast is dedicated to the glory of God and is in loving memory of Johannes & Thomas Freeze, sponsored by Dallas & Lori Lemmen.

Thank you! Thank you to the following families who donated altar poinsettias in memory of loved ones: Margie Arndt, Dick Arnold, Shirley Bluhm, Duane Brase, Kraig Deling, Kent DeLong, Esther Dietrich, Jerry Flogstad, Pam Gentle, Anita Hildebrandt, Steve Jaycox, Cindy Kolander, Bob Kuschel, Jim Larsen, Ken Lenz, Marvin Maass, Bob Roemhildt, Dale Rudolph, Lila Schaal, Glen Schultz, Margaret Schwarz, Lois Spies, Lyn Swenson, Michael Ulschmid, Karen Weckwerth, Jeanette Williams, Ron Wood, Dean Worke, Dave Ziegler. --Kathy Flogstad, Flower Committee

Offering Envelopes: The offering envelopes for 2020 are available for pick-up in the parish hall. You may begin using them on January 1st.

New! Monday Morning Bible Class: All are invited to a new Monday morning Adult Bible Class in the parish hall at 10:00 a.m. Pastor Griffin will be leading this class, which will focus on the appointed lessons (Lectionary) for the following Sunday. If you haven't tried group Bible class for a time, this would be a terrific opportunity to try it out. The coffee will be brewing, and hopefully some cookies will show up!

Secret Brothers and Sisters: December is the month to let your 2019 Secret Brother or Sister know your identity through your contact with them, either in person or through the mail. Thank you for encouraging them and lifting them up in prayer this past year. We will draw new Secret Brother and Sister names for 2020 at our January Cotta Guild meeting.

Upcoming Sermons:

Christmas Midweek Sermon Series - The Five Candles of Christmas
Christmas Eve - The Candle of Love
Christmas Day - The Christ Candle

Dec. 29 – The Flight into Egypt: Jesus' Early Ministry

Jan. 5 – About His Father's Business



- THANK YOU to the Sr. Choir for joining Cotta Guild in caroling at Lakeshore Inn Nursing Home last Sunday!
- Due to lack of interest, The Board of Evangelism is canceling the planned caroling to Waseca shut-ins that was scheduled for TODAY.

4th Sunday in Advent

December 22, 2019

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In last Sunday’s sermon, the Holy Spirit reminded us that all the promises of God are worth the wait! In today’s sermon, He would teach us one more time that the virgin birth of Jesus changes everything. Our sinful nature is such that we are tempted to want to be the captains of our own ships, or at least the “co-captains.” The beauty of the Christmas story is that as often as we listen to it with believing hearts, that often the Spirit of God has an opportunity to adjust our attitudes. Instead of wanting to control our own circumstances, we find it possible to be still and know that God is God. Instead of being overwhelmed with the frustrations and disappointments of life, we find it possible to experience the peace and the joy that only Christ can give. Our sermon theme today is, “His Birth Changes Everything!” It is the fourth in a series of four under the theme, “Making Advent All About Jesus.”

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OPENING HYMN: “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates” # 341

ORDER OF SERVICE: DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING THREE Page 184

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION: Pages 184-185

SERVICE OF THE WORD

INTROIT

“Glory be to the Father...” Page 186

KYRIE ~ Lord, Have Mercy: Page 186

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS ~ Glory to God in the Highest: Page 187

SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY Page 189

FIRST READING: Isaiah 7:10-14

¹⁰ Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz: ¹¹ “Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹² But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” ¹³ And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

“E'en So Lord Jesus Quickly Come” sung by our Senior Choir

SECOND READING: Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, ³ concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴ and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵ through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, ⁶ including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, ⁷ To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

ALLELUIA and VERSE: Page 190

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³ “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). ²⁴ When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵ but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

APOSTLES’ CREED: Page 192

SERMON HYMN: “O Little Town of Bethlehem” # 361

SERMON: “His Birth Changes Everything” (Matthew 1:18-25) Rev. Dr. Larry Griffin

OFFERTORY Pages 192-193

OFFERING [During the offering, please sign the black care book in the pew. Visitors: Please include your address and phone number. Thank you!]

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE: Page 194

SANCTUS ~ *Holy, Holy, Holy:* Page 195

LORD’S PRAYER: Page 196

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD: Page 197

PAX DOMINI ~ *The Peace of the Lord:* Page 197

AGNUS DEI ~ *Lamb of God:* Page 198

COMMUNION HYMNS:

“Angels from the Realms of Glory” # 367

“Angels We Have Heard on High” # 368

“Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising” # 375

NUNC DIMITTIS: Pages 199-200

THANKSGIVING: Page 201

SALUTATION and BENEDICAMUS: Page 201

BENEDICTION: Page 202

CLOSING HYMN: “O Come, All Ye Faithful” # 379

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St. Paul Lutheran Church

- **Nursery available:** For families with small children, there is a designated room in the basement (down the hall, on the right, from the youth room). You will find a changing table, crib, a few books and toys. Please feel free to use anytime during the worship service. During Sunday School and Bible Study there will be someone there to help with your child so you may attend the Adult Bible Study.
- **Preparing for Holy Communion:** To assist our time of preparation, prayers are located in the front cover and on pages 329-330 of your hymnal. Both individual cups and the common cup are offered on both sides. For anyone with alcohol concerns, diluted cups are located in the center of the tray. Gluten free communion wafers are available upon request.
- **Radio Broadcast:** Today’s broadcast (KOWZ 1170 AM or 106.3 FM) is dedicated to the glory of God and is in loving memory of Johannes & Thomas Freese, sponsored by Dallas & Lori Lemmen.
- **Lutheran Hour:** “The Lutheran Hour” can be heard on the following radio stations: WCCO, 830 AM radio, Minneapolis, Sunday, 6:05 AM; KDHL, 920 AM radio, Faribault, Sunday, 6:00 PM; KJLY, 93.5 FM, Owatonna, Sunday, 6:00 PM; and KJLY, 104.5 FM, Blue Earth, Sunday, 6:00 PM.
- **Sunday School:** Today in Sunday School, the lesson is “The “Presentation of Jesus” in the temple. Already in His infancy, Jesus was fulfilling the Law for us and for our salvation. *Ask your children, “What happened and who was in the temple waiting to see the promised Savior? What does this text tell us about who we find in God’s house?”*

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The Lord’s Supper

- ✠ We believe, teach, and confess in accordance with Holy Scripture that the Lord's Supper is a precious gift from God, in which Christ gives us His true body and blood, in, with, and under the bread and wine, for the forgiveness of our sins and the strengthening of our faith.
- ✠ The Bible teaches that this sacrament may also be spiritually harmful when misused, (*For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes. Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body. For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep. 1 Corinthians 11:26-30*)
- ✠ The Lord’s Supper is a testimony of the unity in faith. We ask that only those who have been instructed and who are in fellowship with the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod come with a contrite and joyful heart to the Lord’s Table. (**Acts 2:42** *And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers*)
- ✠ Any guest wishing to receive communion here at St. Paul Lutheran Church, please speak with the Pastor or the Elder on duty, prior to the church service.



Phil. 4:4 – “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.” Life was no easier for the Philippians than it is for us. They had the same sorrows, sicknesses, and disappointments as we have. And yet St. Paul tells them to rejoice in the Lord. We have an abiding joy, a peace which passes all understanding because we know our Lord Jesus and His love for us. This gives us confidence in the face of every hardship; it gives us strength to lead lives in imitation of Jesus’ own generous love.



“Mary, like us, had her problems and her sinful nature to deal with, but in Spirit-worked faith she gave us a wondrous example of living faith, placing her Savior first. As we once more celebrate the day of our Savior’s birth, let us follow Mary’s example in celebrating the Christ Child with faith, humility, and joy! Have a “Mary” Christmas!” *Daily Devotions, Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church, Sister Lakes, Michigan – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life*



- TONIGHT, please meet at church at 7pm. We will be going to Trinity Janesville and joining their youth group for "CROSSFIRE". A time of prayer and praise led by youth for youth. RSVP to Aimee Hill by December 19th for transportation.
- Sunday, December 29th from 8pm to 8am.....join us for a LOCK IN!!! Please let Aimee Hill know for a head count if you will be attending by December 27, 2019



Telling God’s Story Here at St. Paul Lutheran:

A glimpse of ministry this past week includes the people of God engaged with God’s Word. Our Sunday morning Bible class is focused on Paul’s letters to young Pastor Timothy. Our Monday morning Bible class is studying the lectionary / the appointed readings for the next Sunday. Our Thursday morning Bible class is working its way through the prophet Ezekiel. Add to that so many of our members and families gathered around God’s precious Word in private and family devotions. Here we find the Church at her best, as we give the Spirit of God an opportunity to strengthen our Christian faith.

Intentional Interim Ministry Corner:

- Thank you to Kent DeLong, who has agreed to chair our Transition Team and to another 15 members who have agreed to serve.
- Thank you to the following members who have agreed to serve on our Steering Committee: Kent DeLong, Dale Rudolph, Russ Weir, Rhonda Christianson, Michelle Hammer, Karen Weckworth, Cindy Wood, and Linda Seifert.
- Thank you to the following members who are also on the Transition Team and who will be serving on one or more of several committees who will be activated in the near future: Kathy Flogstad, Millie Gerlach, Cindy Gilmore, Aimee Hill, Kelli Lenz, Deb Roemhildt, Marcie Ross, Jerry Schroeder, Ron Wood, and Mary Wyffels.
- “When pastoral leadership changes, the congregation becomes an open system. It is in a position to learn more about itself and its future, but it must be willing and ready to do so...” (Peter Steinke, author of “How Your Church Family Works” and “Healthy Congregations.”)



- Offering envelopes for 2020 are available for pick-up in the parish hall. They can be used beginning January 1st.
- At today's Sunday morning Bible hour, we have asked Mark Schultz from Trinity Lutheran in Janesville to report on a recent mission trip to Nicaragua. All are invited to attend and to consider participating in a March 2020 trip to Somotillo, Nicaragua, where we will be partnering with Pastor Hernaldo and Deaconess Mariela at Christ the Truth and Life Lutheran Church.
- Next Sunday, we will be commemorating saints who have departed in this calendar year.
- Thank you to all who attended the recent Voters' meeting and to all who have agreed to serve in elected offices in the New Year. The installation of 2020 Officers & Board Members will occur during the January 5 worship service.
- All youth are invited to a "Crossfire Service of Praise and Worship" at Trinity Lutheran in Janesville tonight at 7:30.
- All members are urged to invite friends and family to our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (6 p.m.) and to our Christmas Day Service (9 a.m.).
- NO quilting December 24th or December 31st
- A printed copy of Pastor Griffin's Sunday sermons are available at the front/back of the church each Sunday. Feel free to take home!



IN OUR PRAYERS:

✠ *The family of Duane Peterson (uncle to Jeanette Williams) in his recent passing.*

Illness: Bob Kuschel, Timothy Preuss

Recovery from Surgery: Orval Proechel

Medical Testing: Denise Spohn (cousin to Millie Gerlach)

Thanksgiving & Continued Recovery: Arlene Buker, Esther Dietrich, Nancy Lee (wife of Gene Schwarz)

Treatment: Eva Bickell, Harold Hoffmeister (brother-in-law to Mark Pehrson), Marcia Meiners (daughter of the late Lorraine Miller), Brian Schroeder

Those who are sick and/or in need and wish to remain unnamed.

Wedding Anniversary: David & Barb Denn celebrating their 44th wedding anniversary on December 20th.

All the service men & women who are serving in the military: Noah Berg, Ryan Berg, Jacob Claybaugh, Jordan Labiack, Jacob Lemmen, Aaron & Sarah Lenz, Kylie Lenz, Jason Paschall, David Reinsbach, John Thompson

Waseca Circuit Missionaries: Rev. Edward Naumann & Rev. Dr. Stephen Oliver