

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
314 FOURTH AVE NE
WASECA, MN 56093

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PERMIT NO. 100
56093

(Address Service Requested)

January 2024

Jesus Loves

////////////////////////////////////
7 Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. 8 And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also." 9 When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. 10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. 11 And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. 12 Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way. Matthew 2:7-12

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH - (MISSOURI SYNOD)

314 - 4th Ave NE, Waseca, MN 56093
Church Office Hours (Mon-Fri): 9am-1pm

Phone: (507) 835-2647
Email: stpaulwa@hickorytech.net

Mission Statement

"Empowered by God's Word, we joyfully share the Love of Jesus with all people."


Vision Statement

"We will be a vibrant, welcoming church serving the needs of our members, community, and missions by partnering with other churches and organizations while preaching and teaching the inspired Word of God and our Savior Jesus Christ."

SUNDAY MORNINGS (SEPTEMBER THRU MAY):

- ✚ **Divine Service w/Holy Communion:** 9:00 a.m. (also Facebook Live; and Radio 1170 AM/106.3 FM)
- ✚ Sunday School begins at 10:15am
- ✚ **Adult Bible Study** at 10:30 a.m.

Pastor: Rev. Michael Grannis
952-686-3046
revgrannis@gmail.com

 @stpaulwaseca

www.stpaulwaseca.org

Greetings in Christ,

In my first article on Holy Communion 2 months ago, I stated that the Lutheran Church has clear teachings regarding what the Eucharist is, (the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, under the Bread and wine) and who should be admitted to it (those who desire the forgiveness of sins offered therein). I also stated that the earnest desire of the Church is that all would come and rightly receive the blessings of this Sacrament. However, it is my responsibility as the Pastor of St. Paul to both welcome certain people and refuse admission to others based on certain criteria. So, what are those criteria? Well, they fall under three general categories of worthy reception. Those categories are: preparedness; confession; and repentance.

Preparedness first and foremost has to do with whether or not a person is a baptized member of the Church (universal). But along with being a baptized child of God, there are other forms of preparation that we deem important for one to be admitted. St. Paul says in I Corinthians 11:27 and following that a person should not receive communion in an unworthy manner. He says that part of being worthy has to do with participants examining themselves. The other part of being worthy has to do with discerning the body and blood present in the bread and wine. Luther says the person is worthy and well prepared who believes the Words of Christ, “given for you” and “shed for you.”

With regard to self-examination we understand this to mean that we should come to the table considering our sins, and seeking God’s forgiveness, which He offers to us freely in this holy meal. Discerning the body and blood means that one ought to realize that this is not just some symbolic practice. Rather, according to Jesus’ own words, the bread and wine we receive are in fact also His body and blood, through which we are offered the forgiveness of sins (and the fruits of that forgiveness – resurrection unto life eternal).

The second criterion for worthy reception has to do with whether or not a person believes what the Church confesses. The basic question at hand is, “Do you believe what we teach concerning the Christian faith in general, and regarding the Sacrament specifically?” In the Lutheran tradition we have *usually* tied those preparedness and confession sections to Confirmation. However, some choose to administer first Communion earlier in childhood, before a formal Confirmation has been completed. This was the practice at the congregation I most recently served. It was the responsibility of the parent and the child (or the individual adult) to learn the parts of the catechism and to be able to discuss them at an age appropriate level with me before being admitted to the Lord’s Supper.

On a practical note, I have shared in Bible study and in other discussions that as important as Confirmation is in terms of faith formation, it need not be the benchmark for admission to the Lord’s Supper. Can a baptized child believe in

Christ's body and blood being truly yet mysteriously present in the bread and the wine? Can a baptized child memorize the six chief parts of Luther's Small Catechism and have a good basic understanding of them? Can a baptized child understand his or her need for forgiveness, and long to receive it through the Sacrament? Certainly.

Growing in our knowledge of Scripture and of our faith is a life-long process that we will never complete. However, faith-filled children who have been nurtured in the Church often express a desire to receive exactly what is being offered at the Lord's Table (the forgiveness of sins through the body and blood of Christ). I for one am happy to admit them to Holy Communion with their fellow Kingdom workers if I am convinced of three things: that they have a good basic belief in and understanding of the faith as expressed in Luther's Small Catechism, that they can and will examine themselves, and that they have expressed to me their desire to live a life of daily repentance.

Which leads us to the final category regarding one's worthiness for reception of the meal: Repentance. It is one thing to know and believe what is being offered (forgiveness through Christ's once for all sacrifice). It is another thing to demonstrate honor and respect toward it by seeking to live a life in keeping with repentance.

If I know I am sinning in a certain area of my life, and I seek God's forgiveness, but keep on willfully sinning, then I am not seeking to honor God with my life. Rather, I am intentionally taking God's grace for granted, and have not actually repented. In effect I have said, "God, I know this is against Your will, but I want You to turn a blind eye to this so that I can keep on doing it." This is not seeking God's forgiveness of sins; rather it is seeking God's permission to sin. God doesn't ever grant us permission to sin.

As your Pastor I am called to proclaim the Gospel of forgiveness through Christ to all. But I am also called to bind the sins of the unrepentant, withholding the Word of forgiveness from those who have demonstrated that they are not actually interested in receiving it. Therefore, I am not supposed to admit those who are unrepentant – those who knowingly live contrary to God's will. The one who receives the Sacrament unworthily still receives Christ's body and blood, only it is not to their benefit, but to their harm. As your Pastor it is my responsibility to administer the Lord's Supper to those who will receive the blessing of forgiveness by faith, and to protect those who would be harmed through faithless, or an unrepentant unworthy reception.

So, who is worthy to receive the Sacrament? The baptized child of God, who trusts in the grace of God being offered through the body and blood of Christ present in the meal, *and* who strives to live a life in repentance through that forgiveness of sins.

Young or old, I encourage all of you to use Luther's Small Catechism in your daily prayers and devotions. Grow in the truth of Scripture. You are never too young or too old to learn and grow in the knowledge and faith. If you have questions regarding the Sacrament of the Altar, or how to use the Catechism in your personal or family daily devotional life please set up an appointment with me. I am happy to help.

Living Forever, Now,

Pastor Michael James Grannis

Mark your Calendars for these upcoming event



Youth Mission Trip Team **Hot Beef Commercial Drive Thru fundraiser**
Will be **January 12th** from 5pm to 7pm. You don't want to miss this!!!
\$8.00 per meal \$2.00 for a slice of pie.



January 14th, 2024 Sweet - Sommers VFW Post 1642 Along with the St Paul Lutheran Church Mission Trip team invite you to an **ALL YOU CAN EAT** breakfast from 8am to 12pm **MENU:** Sausage, bacon, scrambled eggs, pancakes, French toast, biscuits and gravy, Orange Juice, Milk and Coffee. **Ages:** 1-5 -Free; 6-13 - \$7.00 and Adults \$12.00.



Monday January 8th at 6pm



Sunday January 28th at 10:15 am.



BIBLE READING SCHEDULE

Jesus said that the Old Testament Scriptures "testify of Me" (John 5:39). As the calendar year begins, we start reading at Genesis and in Luke's Gospel. Jesus is proclaimed to be the Seed of the woman (Genesis 3:15), the Seed of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Genesis 22:18; 26:4; 28:14; Galatians 3:16). In the book of Acts Peter quotes these passages as He proclaims Jesus Christ as the Seed of Abraham and the Savior of the world (Acts 3:24-26). Jesus appeared to Moses at the burning bush and called Himself the great I AM (Exodus 3:14; John 8:58). As you read God's Holy Word this year may you hear Christ speaking to you that you would have the forgiveness of all your sins.

JANUARY:

1. Genesis 1,2; Luke 1
2. Genesis 3,4,5; Luke 2
3. Genesis 6,7,8; Luke 3
4. Genesis 9,10,11; Luke 4
5. Genesis 12,13,14; Luke 5
6. Genesis 15,16,17; Luke 6
7. Genesis 18,19; Psalm 3; Luke 7
8. Genesis 20,21,22; Luke 8
9. Genesis 23,24; Luke 9
10. Genesis 25,26; Psalm 6; Luke 10
11. Genesis 27,28; Psalm 4; Luke 11
12. Genesis 29,30; Luke 12
13. Genesis 31,32,33; Luke 13
14. Genesis 34,35,36; Luke 14
15. Genesis 37,38; Psalm 7; Luke 15
16. Genesis 39,40,41; Luke 16
17. Genesis 42,43; Psalm 5; Luke 17
18. Genesis 44,45,46; Luke 18
19. Genesis 47,48; Psalm 10; Luke 19
20. Genesis 49,50; Psalm 8; Luke 20
21. Exodus 1,2; Psalm 88; Luke 21
22. Exodus 3,4,5; Luke 22
23. Exodus 6,7,8; Luke 23
24. Exodus 9,10,11; Luke 24
25. Exodus 12,13; Psalm 21; Acts 1
26. Exodus 14,15,16; Acts 2
27. Exodus 17,18,19,20; Acts 3
28. Exodus 21,22; Psalm 12; Acts 4
29. Exodus 23,24; Psalm 14; Acts 5
30. Exodus 25,26,27; Acts 6
31. Exodus 28,29; Acts 7



Please arrange a replacement if you can not acolyte at the service assigned to you. Please notify the church office at 507-835-2647 when you have changed with another acolyte. Please arrive to the church 20 minutes before the service begins, as the candles are to be lit 10 minutes before the service.

January 7th , 2024: (Sunday) Peyton Ross

January 14th, 2024: (Sunday) Kameron Kunkel

January 21st, 2024: (Sunday) Joel Hammer/ Elianna Grannis greeter

January 28th, 2024: (Sunday) Ton Bethke/ Kina Grannis greeter



**January 24th at Noon for a potluck, hosted by Judie Waters.
We hope to see you all there!!**



(Please note: If your name is not listed; we do not have your birthdate in our church records. Please contact the church office and we will update our records. Thank you!)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Birthday</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Birthday</u>
Dustin Cate	Jan. 1	Cynthia Wood	Jan. 14
Noah Berg	Jan. 2	Judith Graper	Jan. 15
Danita Proechel	Jan. 2	Debra Roemhildt	Jan. 15
Nathan Draheim	Jan. 4	Nicholas Roemhildt	Jan. 16
Joan Manthe	Jan.4	Bonnie Delong	Jan. 18
Wyatt Schroeder	Jan.4	Kenneth Roemhildt	Jan. 18
Robert Lau	Jan. 7	Blaine Brroks	Jan. 19
Josephine Ross	Jan. 7	Ronald Wood	Jan. 19
Marcie Ross	Jan. 7	Beverly Schroeder	Jan. 23
Jaxon Duval	Jan. 8	Jacob Holm	Jan. 26
Judith Webber	Jan.8	Ben Hill	Jan. 28
Elora Grannis	Jan. 9	Dan Roemhildt	Jan. 28
Anita Nelson	Jan. 9	Karen Weckwerth	Jan. 29
Theresa Berberich	Jan. 10	Victoria Mueller	Jan. 30
Wyatt Arndt	Jan. 12	Nancy Schroeder	Jan. 30
Denise Duffy	Jan.13	Steven Steinke	Jan. 30
Maven Grannis	Jan. 13		

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS:

Children's Christmas Worship Thank You

Thank you to everyone who assisted with the Children's Christmas Worship! We were blessed to have you involved. And to the children – we were blessed to hear you share your faith and help lead us in worship.

Operation Christmas Child – Shop Christmas Clearance

As you shop the Christmas clearance and deals, remember the children of Operation Christmas Child. Sales are a great time to pick up small toys and games, trinkets, jewelry, plain T shirts, and craft supplies that can go in the shoeboxes next November. Items for ages 2-14, for both boys and girls, are collected throughout the year. (No liquids, pastes, glue, putty, dough or slime of any kind. No toy guns or military items.) Items can be stored in a locked room at church. Thank you!

Operation Christmas Child Update

Thank you to everyone who donated items and helped pack on packing day. Thank you also to those who gave toward the shipping cost (\$10 per box; over \$2340 total). St. Paul Church Sunday School students, youth and adults packed 234 shoeboxes!

Community-wide collections at St. Paul's accepted a total of 730 shoeboxes, which were then taken by trailer to Mankato. Thank you to the many volunteers who greeted individuals that brought their shoeboxes to St. Paul's, loaded the trailer, and safely transported all those boxes. From Mankato, all were taken to a Minneapolis warehouse for final customs check before shipping out from MSP airport.

St. Paul's purchased shipping labels through the Shoebox website for tracking. This year, our boxes were sent to the South American country of Paraguay. Please pray - for the workers delivering the boxes and for the children in Paraguay receiving the shoeboxes and others around the world. After receiving a box, each child is invited to attend Bible study in their community. We pray the Holy Spirit uses these gifts of love in amazing ways to share the salvation found only in Jesus.

Next year, boxes will continue to be available for you to take home, fill, and return with shipping funds of \$10 per box. You are welcome to use items from the Shoebox storage room to complete your box. And we will pack boxes in November, ahead of the National Packing Week.

Sunday School News

COTTA GUILD NEWS:



Lutheran
Women
in Mission

December Cotta Guild Meeting:

Cotta Guild sang at Real Life at 1pm, then went back to church for our meeting called to order by Judie. Devotions were given by Barb Denn. Secretary report with corrections were read and approved.

Treasurers report read and approved. Thank you to everyone who helped with coffee hour, funerals, advent meal and in any other way to make our Bazaar a great success. Cotta Guild and choir sang on Wed Nove 29th at Colony Court.

OLD BUSINESS: 1. Remember your caring brother and sisters 2. Correct minutes- \$100.00 honey sales (our portion) was given to handicap project 3. Bazaar was discussed and suggestions made. Funds dispersed.

NEW BUSINESS: Officers will remain the same as will circles for 2024

January 9th, 2024 at 2pm, planning meeting for Spring Rally at Morristown.

Fall Owatonna Conference Rally will be hosted by St Paul Cotta Guild.

Mite box Jan 14 – Cindy Coffee hour Jan 14 – muffins

LWML Minn So District Convention June 20-23 at Mankato Civic Center. Waseca Zone will be asked to help in different areas

Winter Retreat LWML Feb 17th at St Paul. Quilters Pork Chop Meal – March 3

Pastor Circuit meal - April 16 at St Paul

December birthdays – Donna Hildebrant and Kelli Lenz

Closed with Lord's Prayer

Meeting adjourned.

In honor of "Sanctity of Life" during January, Cotta Guild will be collecting donations throughout the month for Rachel's Hope, a pregnancy center in Austin, MN, which we support. The items they need the most are baby shampoo, baby lotion, baby wash, and baby wipes, which can be purchased at Dollar Tree. Donation boxes will be at the north end of the church and by the elevator. Thank you for supporting life.

Mites for Missions:

Our Cotta Guild supports missions near and far through the collection of our Mites for Missions donations. These mission projects are voted on at our Lutheran Women's Missionary League national and district conventions by the delegates. Thank you for your support of our Mites for Missions collection on the second Sunday of each month. Your donations may be placed in the mite boxes located at the church entrances. Your donations help share God's Word . The following mission grant was approved at the LWML National Convention in Milwaukee in June.

Mission Grant 3: Serving God's Children with Special Needs

For 60 years, the distinctive ministry of Journeys Lutheran School has been to serve God's children with special needs such as attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, learning disabilities, attention deficit disorder, autism, anxiety, trauma, emotional behavior disorder, and obsessive-compulsive disorders. Families choose Journeys Lutheran School for a variety of reasons, including emotional and spiritual growth, a Christian worldview, an educational approach that works best for their unique student, or a more therapeutic approach to education. We are all God's children despite our differences, challenges, or experiences. Journeys Lutheran School prepares students in Grades 3–12 with unique learning challenges to maximize their God-given spiritual, academic, physical, emotional, and social potential. The resources and experience of Journeys provides academic help to students and provides an opportunity for their lives to be touched by the Holy Spirit through devotions, prayer, Christian counseling, religion classes, and personal witness. Grant funds will purchase two 15-passenger vans. The vans will allow Journeys to reach and teach more students and meet their academic and spiritual needs. In addition to the school bus already in use, the vans will provide alternative means to reach students in areas outside of Milwaukee. Additionally, the vans will transport youth to Martin Luther High School, a ministry partner, so that Journeys students can take elective classes in a Christian mainstream environment. This will enable Journeys students to earn a high school diploma, not just a certificate of completion. The vans will also transport students to potential school-to-work internship opportunities and to transport students to cultural, historical, and spiritual learning experiences without needing to use the full-size school bus. Journeys children deserve the same educational and spiritual opportunities that other children enjoy. The van will help them experience the fullness of God's creation by opening the world and all its possibilities and opportunities to them.

+++++

For those of you who donated and supported our **St. Paul Lutheran Cotta Guild annual Christmas Bazaar**, you may be interested to know the funds we received this year in comparison to the recent years that we had the bazaar. We didn't have one in 2020 because of Covid-19. Thank you for your support.

	2023	2022	2021	2019
Bake Shop	\$674.50	\$578.00	\$554.00	\$492.25
Candy Shop	\$348.00	\$233.00	\$283.00	\$218.00
Cookies	\$770.00	\$725.00	\$476.00	\$576.50
Crafts	\$853.50	\$693.75	\$973.00	\$667.00
Lunch	\$2079.00	\$1,547.00	\$1,812.00	\$1,616.00
White Elephant	\$151.50	\$163.75	\$99.00	\$154.25
Total	\$4876.50	\$3,940.50	\$4,197.00	\$3724.00
Expenses	-\$795.42	-\$646.58	-\$664.85	\$703.41
Net	\$4081.08	\$3293.72	\$3,532.15	\$3,020.59
Thrivent	+\$250.00	+\$250.00	+\$250.00	+\$250.00
Final amount	\$4331.08	\$3,543.92	\$3,782.15	\$3,270.59

God again blessed our Cotta Guild's annual bazaar with a good crowd, good weather, and willing workers. As God blessed our efforts, we were able to use the funds for a variety of mission projects--spreading His Word, supporting many church and charitable causes, and providing thanks and encouragement to our church workers. This is a list of projects which the proceeds of the bazaar supported this year. Thank you for your support of this fundraiser.

List of Cotta Guild bazaar donations

Mission Donation	2023
Ablelight Lutheran Home (formerly Bethesda)	50
Bethlehem House, Waseca	100
Boys' Town of Omaha	50
Camp Omega	100
Comfort Dogs	100
Concordia Seminary, St. Louis	100
Concordia Seminary Guild, St. Louis	50
Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne	100
Concordia Theological Seminary Food Bank, Fort Wayne	50
Dakota Boys' Ranch	50
The Dwelling Place	200
Faribault Lutheran Hour Broadcasts	100
Feed the Children	50
The Gideons	100
LCMS World Missions	100
LCMS World Relief and Human Care	50
Lutheran Heritage	100
Lutheran Hour	50
Lutherans for Life	50
Mary Jo Copeland Caring & Sharing	50
MN South District Missions	100
Neighborhood Service Center	100
Rachel's Hope	100
St. Paul Lutheran Church Improvement Fund	500
St. Paul Lutheran Church Kitchen Fund	200
St. Paul Lutheran Church Radio Ministry	300
Shoe Box Christmas gifts postage	100
Trinity First Lutheran	100
Veterans of the Cross, LCMS retired pastors	100
Waseca Senior Center	50
Purchase dishtowels for embroidering/selling at our bazaar	400
Hymnals for the Parish Hall at St. Paul Lutheran	200
Pastor Grannis	200
Aimee Hill	50
Mark Pehrson	50
Kelli Lenz	50
Harold Christianson	50
Matt Groskreutz	50
Cindy Wood	50
Total:	\$4,350



The Neighborhood Service Center, which includes the Food Shelf, is feeding more families than ever from the food shelf. On average about 20 families a day are coming in for food. The most needed items are cereal and ramen noodles. The Board of Stewardship has placed collection boxes by the church entries for your donation to those individuals needing our support. If you prefer to make a cash donation, please make checks payable to Neighborhood Service Center and mark your church envelope appropriately or drop off your cash donation at the church office. A receipt will be sent to you at the end of the year by the Neighborhood Service Center.



Are you in need of transportation to appointments or to the store? Are you able to drive someone to an appointment or to the store?? If you fit into either of these categories, please call the church office so, we can help you coordinate the rides that you may need.



A reminder to contact the Church Office when you are hospitalized, so that a pastoral visit can be arranged. Thank you.



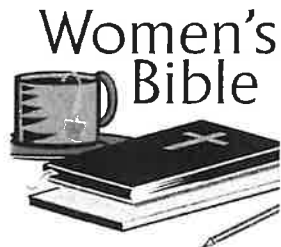
Quilting **will start back up** again on January 2nd. See you all then



Prayer Team will meet every Monday at 10am. Please feel free to come and join us in the Fireside Room.



Know someone who is in need of a “hug from above”? The Quilters are starting “**The Quilters Rocking Chair Project**”. These quilts are located at the back of church and are available for anyone who may need one, no questions asked. Please check it out and if you have any questions please talk to Donna Hildebrandt.



Our Women’s Bible Study will meet **In January**, we plan to meet as usual on the first and third Wednesdays from 9:30 – 10:45 am ...January 3rd and January 17th. We hope to see you then. If you have any questions, contact Cindy Wood at 835-5817.



2023 Poinsettias We thank the following families for beautifying the church for Christmas to the Glory of God, in memory of loves ones.

Ed Bethke, Shirley Bluhm, Bonnie and Kent DeLong, Barb and David Denn, Denise and Grant Duffy, Kathy & Jerry Flogstad, Judy Graper, Ann and Steve Jaycox, Cindy Kolander, Jean Kuschel, JoAnn and Jim Larson, Jane and Bob Lau, Bev and Marvin Maass, Pam and Dale Rudolph, Joe Schumacher, Lois Spies, Carol and Mike Ulschmid, Karen Weckwerth, Jeanette Williams, Jim Wyffels and Dave Ziegler.



January 2024

St. Paul Lutheran Church – Waseca



NEW
IN 2023
JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1. NO Prayer Team OFFICE CLOSED	2. 1:00 pm Quilters 6:00 PM Stewardship 6:00 PM Elders	3. 9:30 am Women's Bible Study 3:30 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Trustee's & Evangelism	4. 6:00 am Bible study @ Johnnie Bean 5:30pm Education	5.	6.
7. 9:00 am Divine Service 10:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Bible study	8. 10:00 am Prayer Team 6pm Church Council Mtg	9. 1:00 pm Quilters	10. 3:30 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Senior Choir & ensemble 7:00 pm Senior Choir & ensemble	11. 6:00 am Bible study @ Johnnie Bean 1 pm Cotta Guild	12. 5pm-7pm: Youth Mission Trip Hot Beef Commercial Drive thru	13.
14. 9:00 am Divine Service 10:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Bible Study 8am – Noon VFW Breakfast	15. 10:00 am Prayer Team 6:00 pm NSC Board	16. 1:00 pm Quilters NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE	17. 9:30am Women's Bible Study 3:30 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Senior Choir & ensemble	18. 6:00 am Bible study @ Johnnie Bean	19.	20.
21. 9:00 am Divine Service 10:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Bible Study	22. 10:00 am Prayer Team	23. 1:00 pm Quilters	24. 29ers Potluck at Noon 3:30 pm confirmation 7pm Senior Choir & ensemble	25. 6:00 am Bible Study @ Johnnie Bean	26.	27.
28. 9:00 am Divine Serv. 10:15am Sunday School 10:15 am Voter's Mtg	29. 10:00 am Prayer Team	30. 1:00 pm Quilters	31.			

