

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

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Jesus Loves *December 2022*

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*⁸ Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. ¹⁰ Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. ¹¹ For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" **Luke 2:8-14***

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."

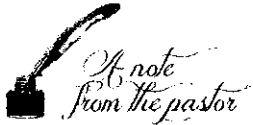
Vision Statement

"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 in the Old Parish Hall
- ✚ **Adult Bible Study** at 10:30 a.m.

Pastor: Rev. Bob Lund (Vacancy Pastor) **Mobile Phone:** (651) 324-9229
Email: bltpbj@yahoo.com



During the Polka Evening Service in October, I shared with the congregation, a true incident that happened during WW1. It was later called the Christmas Armistice. It happened on December 24, 1914.

The event took place in France on Christmas Eve, along a trench warfare line of 500 miles. On one side were the English soldiers and the other side were the German soldiers. It started with the English singing Christmas Carols from their trench. This was proceeded by the German responding with their own Christmas songs. This was followed by the Germans putting lit Christmas Trees on the top of their trenches. With that, men from both sides broke ranks and began to climb out trenches and fraternize with each other. Gifts of food and drink were exchanged. Someone produced a soccer ball and soon an impromptu game was being played. The Germans claimed a 3-2 victory.

There were some humorous times. The Germans asked the English to sing with them. To which the English replied, it would kill them if they did. This was countered by the Germans telling the English their singing alone would be enough to kill the Germans!

The secular world put the reason for the unplanned armistice as one of the following:

1. Men began to develop sympathy for their opponents, who were having as miserable a time as they were.
2. Men could see civilization in the surroundings.
3. Up to that point, the hatred had not progressed to the point as bad as when the war ended.
4. There was a desire to see the enemy close.

From a pastor's point of view, I see the rational for the armistice events as less logical and more faith based. I believe the cease fire began as people started to experience the narrative of the birth of Christ as told through song. This narrative, would have caused the hearts of men to soften to the point where they could forgive the atrocities trench warfare brings. One of the greatest teachings of Christ, given as he was escorted to the cross, was to forgive his enemies, "for they know not what they do." For one day, the world was able to experience Jesus instead of this horrible World War. For one day, the men turned to forgiveness. For one day the fighting stopped and good will among men resumed. Just as the angel predicted to the shepherds: And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: **"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"** This narrative has the power to stop the fighting and bring peace. Whether it was one evening in France 1914 or the political conflicts in America 2022.

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Bob

Mark your Calendars for these upcoming event



Youth Mission Trip Team **Hot Beef Commercial Drive Thru fundraiser**
Will be **December 16th** from 5pm to 7pm. You don't want to miss this!!!
\$8.00 per meal \$2.00 for a slice of pie.



Community-wide Christmas Dinner: St. Paul Lutheran will be serving the community-wide Christmas Dinner this year; Drive up meal from 11am to 12 pm on Christmas Day, December 25th, 2022. Menu: Ham, Au Gratin Potatoes, corn, salad, and dessert. Limit of 5 meals per household. Free-will offerings accepted. Sign-up by calling St Paul's Church Office (835-2647) by December 19th. Sponsored by the Greater Waseca Ministerial Association.



Christmas Bazaar: Saturday, December 3, 2022 10:30 AM – 1:00 PM Hot Beef Sandwiches, Sloppy Joes, Homemade Pies, Coffee, Crafts, Baked Goods, Christmas Cookies, White Elephants, Candy Shop. Stop by and see us!! It's always a good time!



Live Nativity drive thru
December 9th and 10th, 2022 5pm to 8:30pm
St Paul Lutheran Church and Christ the King
If interested in participating this year contact Anita Nelson



Advent begins November 30th thru December 14th, 2022. Advent meals will be served from 4:30pm to 5:45pm with Advent Service following at 6pm.

Wednesday Dec. 7th: Meal served by Board of Education

Wednesday Dec. 14th: Meal served by Cotta Guild



2022 Board Nominations & Budget Meeting: will be held on Sunday, December 11th at 10:30 a.m. in the parish hall.



Worship Services for Christmas Eve will be December 24th 4pm and 6pm. Christmas Day, Dec 25th at 9am. New Years Eve Service December 31st at 6pm.



Bible Reading Schedule

As we begin another Christian Church Year, and as we approach the end of another calendar year, we come to the conclusion of our yearly Bible reading schedule and conclude with the reading of the book of Revelation. There we see portrayed the birth of Christ and His conflict with Satan. (Revelation 12). We also read of Christ's Incarnation in John 1. Paul also writes about the "great...mystery" of the incarnation of Jesus Christ (I Timothy 3:16) and that in the Christ Child "dwells the fullness of the Godhead bodily." (Colossians 2:9) Again we see how the truths of Christmas fill the whole Bible from Genesis to Revelation. The Old Testament prophesied about the Messiah Who would come. The New Testament records the fact that the Messiah came "in the fullness of time" to save us from our sins that we might be God's adopted sons and daughters in faith. (Galatians 4:4-5) May the righteousness of the Holy Christ Child fill your Christmas and the New Year with endless Joy!

1. Romans 5,6,7,8
2. Romans 9,10,11,12
3. Romans 13,14,15,16
4. Ephesians 1,2,3,4
5. Ephesians 5,6; Psalm 119:1-80
6. Philippians 1,2,3,4
7. Colossians 1,2,3,4
8. I Timothy 1,2,3,4
9. I Timothy 5,6; Titus 1,2,3
10. II Timothy 1,2,3,4
11. Philemon; Hebrews 1,2,3,4
12. Hebrews 5,6,7,8
13. Hebrews 9,10,11
14. Hebrews 12,13; Jude
15. James 1,2,3,4,5
16. I Peter 1,2,3,4,5
17. II Peter 1,2,3; John 1
18. John 2,3,4
19. John 5,6
20. John 7,8
21. John 9,10,11
22. John 12,13,14
23. John 15,16,17,18
24. John 19,20,21
25. I John 1,2,3,4,5
26. Psalm 117; 119:81-176; II John; III John
27. Revelation 1,2,3,4
28. Revelation 5,6,7,8,9
29. Revelation 10,11,12,13,14
30. Revelation 15,16,17,18
31. Revelation 19,20,21,22



ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

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.

December 4th, 2022: (Sunday) Ton Bethke/ Makayla Clark Greeter

December 7th, 2022: (Wednesday 6pm) Nalyce Quillen

December 11th, 2022: (Sunday) Ellie Hoban

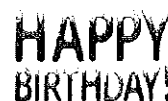
December 14th (Wednesday 6pm), 2022: Peyton Ross

December 18th, 2022: (Sunday) Alex Bethke

December 25th, 2022(Sunday) Joel Hammer



December 14th at 11:30am potluck hosted by Judie Waters and Lila Schaal. 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>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Birthday</u>
Donna Vitha	Dec. 2	Xavier Frias	Dec. 16	Paige Swenson	Dec. 29
Zoey Frias	Dec. 3	Becky Joecks	Dec. 16	Mireyah Torres	Dec. 29
Donna Hildebrandt	Dec. 7	Matt Berg	Dec. 17	Hannah Sletten	Dec. 30
DeeAnn Kamara	Dec. 7	Kelli Lenz	Dec. 17		
Dennis Bickell	Dec. 8	Evangeline Mueller	Dec. 17		
Susan Swenson	Dec. 8	Kenneth Peterson	Dec. 19		
Carol Arnold	Dec. 9	Willie Schroeder	Dec. 19		
Laurie Flom	Dec. 9	Gary Paulson	Dec. 21		
Carol Sletten	Dec. 9	Aaron Lenz	Dec. 23		
Lorene Worke	Dec. 9	Mark Pehrson	Dec. 24		
Bob LaCroix	Dec. 13	Payton Gehloff	Dec. 27		
Brian Brase	Dec. 14	Griffin Arndt	Dec. 28		
Dayton Draheim	Dec. 14	Dustin Baumgard	Dec. 29		
Jean Kuschel	Dec. 15	Helen Boese	Dec. 29		
		Carson Cromer	Dec. 29		

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS:

Sunday School News

All children and youth Preschool age 3 through Grade 8 are invited to join us Sunday mornings 10:15 – 11:15. We begin in the Old Parish Hall with snacks and for opening with music. We then go to our individual classrooms for class time. Students are released to their parents at 11:15am.

Sunday School News

We are beginning to practice our songs and speaking parts for the **Children's Christmas Service on December 18th at 9am. Students should meet in their classrooms by 8:30am.**

Packed 226 Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes!!!

Sunday School students, youth group, mission group and adults all helped to get 226 shoeboxes packed! Thank you to everyone who donated items, helped pack, and gave toward the shipping cost (\$10 per box; \$2260 total). And many gave after we discovered we were short on shipping money, due to the large number of boxes packed. God is faithful and works mightily!

Some labels were again purchased through the Operation Christmas Child website, so we can track the shoeboxes. We will share as soon as we know the destination. Community-wide collections at St. Paul Lutheran Church was November 14th through November 21st. We collected from the community, churches and individuals, a total of 840 shoeboxes!!! Thank you to Aimee Hill and the volunteers who greeted individuals as community members brought their shoeboxes to St. Paul Church, Dan and Debbie Roemhildt for the use of their trailer to take the shoeboxes to Mankato and to Ron Wood and Kathy Flogstad for taking the shoeboxes over to Mankato.

After being collected and packed in cartons, the shoeboxes were taken by trailer to Mankato. From Mankato, many more cartons went to a warehouse in Minneapolis for final customs check before shipping out from MSP airport. Pray for the workers delivering the boxes and for the children receiving the shoeboxes around the world. Upon receiving a shoebox, each child is invited to attend Bible study in their community. We pray the Holy Spirit uses these gifts in amazing ways to share the salvation found only in Jesus!



youth -activities)

- **Jr. Confirmation Instruction:** Students in 6th through 8th grades meet Wednesday's 3:30 – 4:30pm with a light meal following.
- **Adult Confirmation Instruction:** Meets Tuesdays 3:30 -4:30pm.
- **YOUTH GROUP:** Will NOT MEET IN DECEMBER. Merry Christmas!!
- **SUNDAY SCHOOL:** meets Sunday mornings at 10:15am in the Old Parish Hall
- **Mission Trip 2023:** People interested in going on the mission trip in 2023, make sure to talk to Mark Pehrson and make sure you have paid your deposit.

BOARD OF EVANGELISM

Minutes from November 2nd, 2022

- Linda had devotions.
- We discussed grandparenting classes
- National Summit coming up
- Maybe a Valentine Class in Feb. "Love and Respect"
- Wild game feed in the spring. The animals that people kill in the fall would be on the menu and prepared by the men.
- Went over budget.
 - Meeting Adjourned, respectfully submitted by Barb Denn

OPERATION "CARE COIN"

Operation "Care Coins" is a project sponsored by the Board of Evangelism. These coins can be located at the front and back of the church. They contain the Bible verse "Cast your Cares on Him for He cares for YOU" 1 Peter 5:7, the Church Name, Address, Phone # and Mission Statement. These are meant to share with someone who may need a boost that day, a lonely person, hurting from a life issue, and to let them know someone cares or perhaps you can share it with someone who has no home church. It is not meant to be held in your possession.

#1 Take a coin

#2 Pray over it and for the person God already has in mind for you to pass it on to.

#3 Keep your eye out for someone in need, watch the newspaper, school events, Look for the opportunity to reach out beyond our walls.

#4 Watch for and greet that person. If they come to Church, welcome them

#5 Once you have given your coin away, you are invited to take another coin and repeat the process.

COTTA GUILD NEWS:



**Lutheran
Women
in Mission**

November Cotta Guild Meeting:

Lunch was served by Linda's circle. Cindy opened the meeting with a devotion from Pastor Griffin entitled "Golden Years." The Secretary and treasurer reports were read and approved. Thank you's were given out to several of us for helping with the LLL meal and taking our food donations to the NSC.

Don't forget your secret sister's and brothers. December will be our reveal to them.

Thursday December 1st, 9am the following will help frost cookies: Judie, Kathy, Darlene, Bev and Barb. Friday December 2 at 9am, the following will help tray and wrap up cookies: Darlene, Rhonda, Gail and Judie. We will be setting up tables for the bazaar. We were short pies last year and sandwich buns. Each circle this year is asked to please bring a 9-inch pie, eleven pies from each circle. Rhonda and Kathy will make the 2 desserts needed. All of these will be delivered to the church by 9 am Saturday.

We will tray shut in cookies on Saturday December 19th at 9am. Volunteers are Cindy, Vivian, Linda, Kathy, Marilyn and Judie. Some prices have gone up, but Cotta Guild is NOT raising its price this year.

We will serve coffee hour on the 13th and Linda will pick up the Rolls at Walmart. We serve the Advent meal on Wed Dec 14th and will serve Chicken wild Rice Soup, bread, crackers, coffee and dessert.

We need to wrap up our 2023 New Books. Our delegate to the National Convention will be Judie or Linda and alternate will be Barb Denn. Starting in 2023, Secretary and Public Relations will combine Duties. Kathy and Barb will serve in this position and Barb will be back up. She has agreed to take vice president's position.

Kathy will apply for a Thrivent \$250 card for the community Christmas Dinner which St Paul is serving this year. November birthdays: Carol Rosenthal and Anita Hildebrandt. Barb's circle will serve next month at 1pm, Dec 8th. We will do our expenditures for 2023 at that meeting.

Kathy Flogstad
Public Relations

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At a recent Cotta Guild Meeting, we decided on a name change and plan for our service to the former Secret Brothers and Sisters, who are homebound. We changed the name of our service to Caring for Brothers and Sisters in Christ. We will draw a name of a homebound member at the beginning of the year and let that person know our name. We will send that person a card each month of that year and pray for him/her, as we have in the past. The Change is that our name will no longer kept secret from them for the year. Thank you for serving our homebound members in this way to brighten their day, to encourage them, and to lift them up in prayer.
Thanks Cindy Wood

Mites for Missions: *LWML Mites at work:*

When you hear the phrase “seminary tuition assistance,” what’s the first location that enters your mind? Did you think of St. Louis, Missouri, home of Concordia Seminary? Perhaps you thought of Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Did you know that there are *seventeen* Lutheran seminaries on the continent of Africa, providing pastoral training to the *eight* partner church bodies of The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod? Our own Minnesota South LWML Mission Grant #13, Nigerian Seminary Tuition Assistance, already fully funded for the 2022-24 biennium, recently provided tuition aid to the largest of these seminaries, Jonathan Ekong Memorial Lutheran Seminary in Obot Idim, Nigeria.

“Jonathan Ekong Memorial Lutheran Seminary’s primary mission is to train pastors and evangelists for the Lutheran Church of Nigeria and other confessional Lutheran churches in Africa,” begins the description on the website of the Lutheran Church of Nigeria (LCN). “These men are equipped to serve God’s people with the Word and Sacraments and to lead the Church in reaching out to the lost and uncommitted with the good news of life and salvation in Jesus Christ.”

That sounds a lot like our American LCMS seminaries, doesn’t it? Perhaps one of the largest differences lies in the circumstances in which Nigerian seminary students find themselves. Listen to these words from Rev. Dr. Christian Ekong, President and Archbishop of the LCN: “The kidnapping, banditry, herder’s clashes, and Boko-Haram attacks are still threatening. The National Universities in Nigeria have been closed down for about 8 months now. University professors have decided not to return to classes until their salaries are paid and facilities are improved for conducive learning. It is a very difficult time for our nation! We suffer from poor and ineffective leadership.”

Boko-Haram is a Sunni Muslim group associated with jihad, who seeks to overthrow the current Nigerian government. “Boko-Haram” literally means “Western education is forbidden,” and the seminaries are just as susceptible to these attacks as the national universities.

It almost sounds hopeless, doesn’t it? But keep reading: “Your support for the training of our seminarians at this time is very comforting. It is an added strength to our administration, which I am not taking for granted. I greatly appreciate your kindness for our seminary and the church. Your mission endeavors will continue to receive our Lord’s rewards.” These words, from an email sent on October 7, are filled with the joy of the Lord. “Kindly extend our gratitude to the women of the LWML,” says Rev. Dr. Ekong. Your mites are making a difference! Never doubt that your efforts are worth it, whether it be an extra offering on LWML Sunday, a collection basket at your fall rally, or even the change you dig out of your purse, pocket, or car seats.

For your name’s sake, O LORD, preserve my life! In your righteousness bring my soul out of trouble! And in your steadfast love you will cut off my enemies, and you will destroy all the adversaries of my soul, for I am your servant (Psalm 143:11-12).

Respectfully submitted,

Molly Loder, VP of Gospel Outreach, 2022-26



SECRET SISTERS: Please let your Secret Brother or Sister, with whom you have been in contact for 2022, know your identity when you send him/her a December Christmas greeting. Thanks for being a blessing to those who are homebound; your concern may have brightened their day.



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.



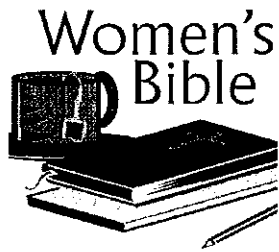
There will be **NO QUILTING** on December 13th, December 20th and December 27th. We will resume in January 2023.



There will be no Prayer Team on December 26th or January 2nd.



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 would like to wish everyone a joyous Holiday Season as we prepare to Celebrate Jesus' birth. **We will not meet in December**, as there are Advent services to attend and Christmas concerts to enjoy. **In January**, we plan to meet as usual on the first and third Wednesdays from 9:30 – 10:45 am ...January 4th and January 18th. We hope to see you then. If you have any questions, contact Cindy Wood at 835-5817.



Christmas Poinsettias: If you would like to place a poinsettia on the altar in memory of a loved one, they will be sold on Sunday November 27th, December 4th, and December 11th at the back of the church with Kathy Flogstad. The price is \$15.00 for each plant and check should be made payable to Julie Poehler. Poinsettias will be delivered December 16th.



St. Paul Lutheran Church – Waseca

December 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4. 9:00 am Worship-HC 10:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Adult Bible Study	5. 10:00 am Prayer Team	6. 1:00 pm Quilters 3:30 pm Adult Confirm. 6p Elders/Stewardship	7. NO WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 3:30 pm 6, 7, 8 Catechism Advent supper 4:45-5:45pm 6pm Advent Service 7:00 pm Senior Choir 7pm Trustee/Evangelism	8. 6:00 am Bible Breakfast @ Jonnie Beans 1:00 pm Cotta Guild 5:30 pm Education	9. LIVE NATIVITY 5p-8:30p	10. LIVE NATIVITY 5p-8:30p Christmas Bazaar 10:30 - 1pm
11. 9:00 am Worship-HC 10:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Voter's Mtg	12. 10:00 am Prayer Team	13. NO Quilters 3:30 pm Adult Confirm. Newsletter Articles Due	14. 3:30 pm 6, 7, 8 Catechism Advent supper 4:45-5:45pm 6pm Advent Service 7:00 pm Senior Choir and Contemporary Ensemble	15. 6:30 am Bible Breakfast @ Jonnie Beans	16. Hot Beef Commercial Drive Thru 5p-7p	17.
18. 9:00 am Children's Christmas Worship Service with birthday cake for Jesus following in Parish Hall. NO Adult Bible Study	19. 10:00 am Prayer Team 6:00pm NSC	20. NO Quilters 3:30 pm Adult Confirm.	21. NO WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 3:30 pm 6, 7, 8 Catechism 7:00 pm Senior Choir and Contemporary Ensemble	22. 6:30 am Bible Breakfast @ Jonnie Beans 9:00am Worship Service	23. Church Office Closed	24. 4pm: Christmas Eve Service 6pm: Christmas Eve Service
25. 9:00 am Worship-HC 10:15 am Sunday School NO Adult Bible Study 11am to 12p: GWMA Christmas meal	26. NO Prayer Team CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	27. NO Quilters NO Adult Confirm.	28. NO 6,7,8 Catechism 7:00 pm Senior Choir and Contemporary Ensemble	29.	30.	31. 6pm Service with HC

