



St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran

Church • School • Preschool

St. Paul's Lutheran Church December 2024 Newsletter

Seeking to proclaim Christ and Him crucified to more people more often.

office: 920-922-1080 www.stpaulslutherannfdl.com

Getting Ready for a Real Christmas

Have you noticed that this year it seems like Thanksgiving got bumped for Christmas? The stores went from Halloween to Christmas overnight. I know it's money-based as stores seek to drive revenue at the end of the year but there is a whole season, and kind of an important one in the middle of it all.

Advent is a season of preparation that is all but lost in the decorating plans. Advent is a word that comes from the Latin root meaning "coming". If we want to experience the joy of a real Christmas, then we need Advent. In the season of Advent, Christians observe the connection between the first time the Son of God came into our world as the Savior and the second time He will come as the Judge. Advent prepares our minds and hearts, so that we might soon celebrate a real Christmas.

That doesn't mean we are doing it all wrong as we get ready for Christmas. In fact, in many ways, it is keeping the meaning of Advent as we drive toward Christmas and all of its realities. In the first Sunday of Advent, we remember the "why" of it all. Jesus has to come to fulfill the Scripture and provide forgiveness for the people of God. The Second Sunday introduces John the Baptist and His cry for repentance. Leveling the mountains of sin and straightening the way in the lives of the people of God is heartfelt preparation for the celebration of Christmas and the birth of our Savior. Joy filled lives all year long and not just at Christmastime fills out the third week as we recall that this message, which is soon to burst forth upon the scene of human history, will drive every waking moment for the Christian as we live in the joyous realities of salvation and a home in heaven which surpasses the sorrow of this world. The Annunciation to Mary, dominates the final week of Advent as the expectation of the birth of her son, God's son now sits usually less than a week away.

It's all kinda like getting ready for Christmas: decorating the house, preparing for the meal, buying the presents, and anticipating the joy of Christmas morning has come full circle. We prepare our hearts for another year of contemplation. Not just of the Christmas season (Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany) but the rest of the three-part annual pilgrimage that starts here and moves through Easter (Lent, Holy Week, Easter, and Ascension) and on to the life of the Church (Pentecost and all the Sundays thereafter).

This year, in all the busy buzz of the holidays, take time to get ready for a real Christmas. Take time to get to church each week for those Advent themes, and to wrap yourself in the means of grace, grab the devotions from MLC (in the tract rack in the Narthex or online at stpaulslutherannfdl.com/MLCdevotions) and dig into all the coming season of Christmas means for you and for a world of people just like you and maybe this year will be more than tinsel and trinkets but about the real joy of salvation which bursts onto the scene of human history that first Christmas Eve.

*Ponder again what glory then
The Lord will give you for your earthly sadness.
The angel host can never boast
Of greater glory, greater bliss or gladness.
The world may hold her wealth and gold;
But you, my heart, keep Christ as your true treasure.
To Him hold fast until at last
A crown is yours and honor in full measure.*

O Jesus Christ, Your Manger Is #342

Advent by Candlelight – December 1st

Our Women In God's Service (WInGS) Group is putting on its annual Advent by Candlelight event for all women of the congregation. It starts at 1:00 PM on December 1st. The ladies moved to a Sunday afternoon this year to allow more working women to attend the event. As one member and regular attendee put it, "It's always just so wonderful and a special way to prepare for the celebration of our Savior's birth."



December Calendar of Events

Events at St. Paul's are italicized



- Nov. 30 – Christmas Tree Decorating at 8:30 AM
- Dec. 1 – Advent by Candlelight by WInGS at 1 PM
- Dec. 7 – WLA Winter Band Concert at 4:00 PM
- Dec. 7 – MLC Christmas Concert at 7:30 PM
- Dec. 8 – MLC Christmas Concert at 4 PM
- Dec. 8 – Wis. Luth. Sem. Christmas 3 PM & 7 PM
- Dec. 13 – Joyful Witness Christmas Concert at 7 PM
- Dec. 14 – Christmas for Kids 10-11:30 AM
- Dec. 14 – Joyful Witness Christmas Concert at 2 PM
- Dec. 15 – Children's Christmas Service at 4 PM
- Dec. 19 – WLA Christmas Concert at 7 PM
- Dec. 20 – WLA Christmas Concert at 1 PM
- Dec. 20 (AT NOON) – Jan. 3 – Christmas Break (SPLS & WLA)
- Dec. 24 (4 PM & 6 PM) – Christmas Eve Worship
- Dec. 25 (9 AM) – Christmas Day Worship
- Dec. 31 (6:30 PM) – New Year's Eve Worship

Livestreams are available for almost everything these days. Most of the concerts above can be found on streaming sites for various institutions.

- St. Paul's at stpaulslutherannfdl.com/streams
- Winnebago Lutheran Academy at youtube.com/c/WLATV/
- Martin Luther College at mlc-wels.edu/streams/
- Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary at livestream.com/WLSLive



Want other opportunities for concerts and music? Almost every Area Lutheran High School and our two synodically funded high schools Luther Preparatory School (lps.wels.net) and Michigan Lutheran Seminary (mlsem.org) offer Christmas Concerts and Livestream them as well. Visit their websites and load up on the Christmas joy.

Year End Giving Opportunities

Year-End Giving: Donor Option Programs

Many employers offer a "Donor Option Program" allowing employees to designate gifts to a specific 501(c)(3) not-for-profit eligible charity. Many employers match these gifts too. To see a list of companies with matching gift programs visit stpaulslutherannfdl.com/donorooption.

Year-End Giving: Qualified Charitable Distributions

If you're age 70.5 and older, contact your tax professional or WELS Planned Giving to learn how to make a tax-wise gift to St. Paul's, the WELS, or WLA.

Year-End Giving: WELS Planned Giving

Our synods planned giving counselors are well-versed in wills, trusts, and any number of giving vehicles. There is also a wealth of information available online at wels.net/giving.

HAPPY Birthday

By day not year ... that can be your own personal secret.

Cindy Kumbier-Borgers	12/1	Porter Schumacher	12/18
Alexander Kemnitz	12/1	Michelle Lamb	12/18
Parker Wendt	12/2	Savannah Wood	12/19
Amanda Tadych	12/2	Travis Bortner	12/19
Chelsea Weinke	12/2	Konar Brown	12/20
Megan Weinke	12/2	Holly Christie	12/20
Paul Christie	12/2	Abby Mose	12/21
Joseph Haines IV	12/2	Brittany Linzmeyer	12/21
Ari Kuechler	12/3	Tim Tackett	12/21
Tara Wendt	12/4	Pam Vanderboom	12/21
Austen Grassel	12/6	Evan Boehning	12/22
Wayne Jahns	12/7	Zekiel Bonney	12/22
Eric Meyer	12/8	Ryan Mikle	12/22
Korey Krupp	12/8	Gwen North	12/22
Lori Marschall	12/8	Dylan Bechler	12/23
Oliver Oelke	12/9	Dina Leichtfuss	12/23
Logan Schneiter	12/9	David Hass	12/23
Judy Bunk	12/10	Cody Emerich	12/24
Ashley Kemnitz	12/10	Matthew Miller	12/24
Peter Jerman	12/11	Kristine Mittelstadt	12/24
Paula Hass	12/11	Tensley Reitz	12/25
Emily Balson	12/12	Linda Mathwig	12/25
Michael Johnson	12/13	Onalee Surian	12/26
Steven Ashley	12/14	Meliza Lane	12/26
Kristi Utsch	12/15	Perry Welch	12/26
Zach Frank	12/15	Steve Herzberg	12/28
Lisa Jerman	12/15	Trinity McNicholas	12/29
Victoria Rushing	12/15	Gary Priebe	12/29
Mary Kaiser	12/15	Emmitt Slattery	12/30
Paige Smith	12/16	Owen Slattery	12/30
Mark Roedl	12/16	Cheryl Wunder	12/30
Dave Babler	12/17	Kim Geisthardt	12/30
Debbie Krause	12/17	Liliana Robinet	12/31
Paul Metzger	12/17	Laura Tillman	12/31
Asher Ciske	12/18	David Jeffers	12/31

A fun birthday activity. Find your baptism certificate and recall the day when you were born into the family of God.



Christmas Cards will be available in the Library soon and they are extremely well-priced. Find the perfect card today.