

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Rev. Neil Wehmas, Associate Pastor

Church Office

EMAIL: stpaulidagrove@gmail.com

IDA GROVE, IOWA

364-2918

Website: www.stpaulig.org

January 6 & 7, 2024

The Baptism of Our Lord

WELCOME TO ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH. We wish you God's richest blessings during your time with us. **Green prayer cards are on the podium in the Narthex or in the pews if you have prayer requests. Please give to an usher to give to pastor.**

OUR VISION STATEMENT *Our vision is to be a people transformed by the Gospel to live out and pass on the legacy of faith in Jesus Christ in our homes, community and world. We will empower and equip people to mentor following generations so that the legacy of faith continues.*

OUR MISSION STATEMENT *Our mission is to grow in our faith in Jesus Christ in order to share that faith with others.*

CHRISTMAS BACKDROP / PHOTO BOOTH is still available in the basement corner of the Fellowship Hall if you would like to use for a family photo etc.

THANK YOU to those who donated cookies and came and assembled the cheer plates that circle 3 had put together and handed out to the Willowdale and Golden Horizons.

CHOOSE MINISTRY WOMEN'S EVENT on Sunday, January 14 from 1:00-4:00PM at the Rosemary Clausen Center, Holstein. Purchase tickets online chooseministry.com/tour or call Sheryl Leonard for a ticket. Choose is an event for women drenched in worship, music, storytelling, laughter, and God's Word. These 4 beautiful women will share personal stories of victory in Christ. They will empower and equip you to make Godly choices that transform everyday lives. Come and experience God's presence and power in a real, intimate way.

LWML MITEBOX CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2024

At the November 2023 meeting of the LWML Executive Board a decision was made about how the LWML Mite box contributions for 2024 would be distributed.

The Executive Board decided to designate the funds from each quarter would go to the National LWML Mission projects and local mission projects in our community. The distribution of each quarter's funds will be one-fourth to the National LWML Missions and three-fourths of each quarter's contributions would go to local missions.

For 2024 the local mission distribution will be as follows:

1st Quarter will be supporting the Ida Grove Ambulance

2nd Quarter will be supporting the Community Basket

3rd Quarter will be supporting the Ida Grove Fire Department

4th Quarter will be supporting the Ida Grove Orphan Grain Train

Your coins will make a difference on the national level as well as in Ida Grove in 2024! Please drop your coins in the large Mite Box located in the Narthex whenever you visit our church!

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP 5:00PM SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP 9:00AM

ACOLYTE: Sat. 5PM:

ACOLYTE: Sunday 9AM:

CALENDAR EVENTS FOR THIS WEEK

Sunday 1/7/24	Worship w/Communion – Live Streamed Coffee & Fellowship – High school youth serving pancakes Sunday School & Youth Bible Study in the fellowship hall	9:00AM 10:15AM 10:15-11:15AM 10:30-11:15AM
Monday	Elders	7:00PM
Tuesday	Church Council	7:00PM
Wednesday	Bible Study at Jimmy's Bible Study – The Christmas Story CIA – Catechism Instruction Academy 6th & 8th grades CIA -- 7th grade	7:00AM 9:30AM 5:00-6:00PM 5:45-6:45PM
Thursday	More than Bread Bible Study at Subway - Revelation	6:00PM
Saturday	Worship Service	5:00PM
Sunday 1/7/24	Worship – Live Streamed Coffee & Fellowship - Sunday School & Youth Adult Bible Class (in the fellowship hall) - Revelation	9:00AM 10:15AM 10:15-11:15AM 10:30-11:15AM

Offering this week:\$

Attendance Saturday Eve:32

Sunday Morning:78

New Year's Eve: 58

MILITARY BIBLESTICK – VISION 2033 Every \$25.00 gift provides a valuable service member or veteran with a Military BibleStick and more. This will give them the hope and peace it offers to sustain them through many trials. **We received \$5,375.00 that we sent to Faith Comes By Hearing for matching funds. THANK YOU to all who donated.**

REMINDER OF BIBLE STUDIES:

WEDNESDAY MORNING AT ZIMMY'S 7:00AM

WEDNESDAY MORNING AT 9:30AM study is The Christmas Story

THURSDAY EVENING - MORE THAN BREAD BIBLE STUDY (at Subway) will resume on Thursday, January 11 at 6:00PM the study is Revelation

SUNDAY MORNING AT 10:30-11:15AM – in the fellowship hall and the study will be Revelation

FLOWERS IN THE CHANCEL AREA this weekend, are from the family of Wilhelmina Edsen in celebration of her birthday.

NATIVITIES will be taken down on Thursday, Jan. 11 at 9:30AM if you would like to help.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 60:1–6

¹Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. ²For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. ³And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. ⁴Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. ⁵Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. ⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

EPISTLE

Ephesians 3:1–12

¹For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— ²assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. ⁴When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. ⁶This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. ⁷Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. ⁸To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, ¹⁰so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1–12

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: ⁶"And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'" ⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." ⁹After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

The star...
came to
rest over
the place
where the
child was.

Matthew 2:9, ESV



**St. Paul Lutheran Church
The Epiphany of Our Lord
and
The Baptism of Our Lord
January 6 & 7, 2024**

In Our Thoughts Prayers

Roger Frank (Karen Frank) - healing & recovery from fall

The community of Perry, IA, after the shooting at the high school on Thursday

Continued prayers and/or healing for:

Shirley Havener Jo Palmer Gene & Colleen Knop Corlys Boysen
Jolene Ladwig Makayla Bell Stella Turnbull Austin Mollhoff
Ron Kraphl Jeff Pierce Rose Schuldt Jim Wilcox Seth Hamann
Mark Queen Dan Grell Kenton Petersen Lody Smith Erin DeBoer
Diane Olsen Sue Bubba Kayla Baker Tiffany Lindberg

January Birthdays this week:

Jan.5 Channing Miesner Donna Rasmussen
Jan.6 Greg Steenbock
Jan.7 Janet Brinkman Wilhelmina Edsen
Jan.8 Lorne Miller
Jan.9 Shawn Cadwell Michael Stehr
Jan.10 Daniel German
Jan.11 Malia Lansink Karen Petersen
Jan.12 Charlie Miller West
Jan.13 LuAnn Smith
Jan.15 Amber Benner Judy Schimmer

January Anniversaries

Jan. 5 Wesley & Claudia Swanger

COMMUNITY BASKET DONATIONS for January: Baking items: flour, sugar, baking soda/powder, brown sugar, cake mixes/frosting, etc. place your donation in the shopping cart in the Narthex. *All items are appreciated as well, as they can always use donations.* The Community Basket is open on Thursdays (except 3rd Thursday), from 2:30-5:30PM.


The mobile food pantry will be on January 18, at the United Methodist Church, Ida Grove from 4:30-5:30PM.

If you're able to help, with filling a box or carrying a box, it would be appreciated, The Methodist Church has also specifically asked if our youth would be able to help as well 3:15PM is when they asked for our volunteers to be there.

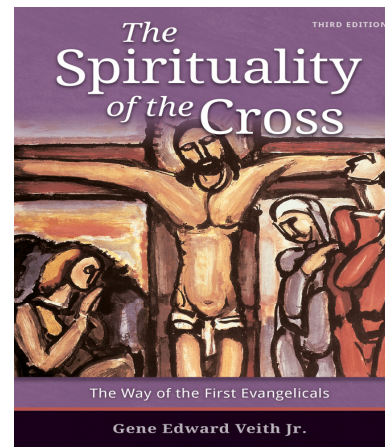
Bible Quiz

In the story of the Magi, what word is used to give a sense of Jesus' age when the wise men visited? What does it tell us?

- A. "baby"; Jesus was still a newborn in a manger
- B. "child"; when the wise men visited, Jesus had grown past infancy
- C. "youth"; Jesus was probably between 10 and 14
- D. No word is used to suggest Jesus' age at the time of the wise men's visit.



Answer: B [See Matthew 2:1-12]



Spirituality: the lived, vital, personal dimension of Christianity. The topic of spirituality in Christianity is muddled with mysticism rather than the mysteries of Christ: the Sacraments and His resurrection. With the rise of people identifying as "spiritual but not religious" and moving away from "institutional" religion, this book offers a bridge to bring people to Christ. More importantly, *Spirituality of*

the Cross brings people to Lutheranism and its teachings of the cross and Christ's sacrifice for our salvation. Gene Veith has guided thousands to Christianity through this best-selling CPH book, and the revised third edition will help you in learning about the faith. In this edition, Veith digs into a new topic called Christology in the Lutheran faith, along with updating much of the language and examples to reflect contemporary issues. Finally, some additional material adapted from *Authentic Christianity* is now in the pages to speak to a more modern audience. *Spirituality of the Cross* also offers an updated list of resources to help further your understanding of Lutheran spirituality. This list covers many different topics within Lutheranism to help make it easy for you to find where to go next to grow. Topics covered: Justification, Means of Grace, Theology of the Cross, Christology, Vocation, Living in Two Kingdoms, and Worshiping God. Also available on Audible and Kindle

