



St. Paul News

The Newsletter of
St. Paul Lutheran Church
Ida Grove, Iowa

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December

2021

INSIGHT FROM THE WORD OF GOD:

Heaven and Nature

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music; make music to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the sound of singing, with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn — shout for joy before the LORD, the King. Let the sea resound, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.



Let the rivers clap their hands, let the mountains sing together for joy; let them sing before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth.

He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity.

(Psalm

98:4-8)

“And heaven and nature sing,” says one of our favorite Christmas hymns. A lot of singing goes on at Christmas-time, by all kinds of people in all kinds of places. But the hymn reminds us that other things besides people make music in praise to the Lord. By doing what they were created to do, things like “fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains”

also “repeat the sounding joy” in a kind of hymn-sing to the God who created them.

Day by day, during the advent season this year I invite you to listen to the various songs the “heaven and nature sing,” and add your voice to them in praise to God who not only made you - and made you able to sing - but also gave you something to sing about, “a Savior who is Christ the Lord.”

The various parts of nature praise God with the kind of “singing” God has created for them. With the exception of angels, most of them probably don’t know that they are praising God.

Only we humans can decide that we want to praise God. Stars have no choice; neither to the rocks, hills and plains. Only we have been given a choice . . . and only we have been given the reason for singing praises to our Lord. **“Unto you is born a Savior,”** the Christmas angels said. Because we have a choice, the praise we offer sounds all the sweeter in God’s ears; it comes from those who love God because we know how much God loves us -- enough to send his Son to die for us, so that we can go to heaven. That is worth singing about! After all God had a choice too!



Take advantage of the many opportunities this congregation offers for worship, praise and song during the Advent and Christmas season.

Your pastor,
Rev. Richard A. Salcido

In our worship series for Advent, we look back in Scripture at those who waited upon the Lord for his promises to come to pass through the Christ Child. We also look forward, contemplating how we should wait upon the Lord in this present moment of our lives, as God continues to make himself known to us.

Advent and Christmas Worship 2021



Advent - 7:00 PM

Wednesday, 12/1 – Wait Upon the Lord with Faith

Wednesday, 12/8 – Wait Upon the Lord with Hope

Wednesday, 12/15 – Wait Upon the Lord with Rejoicing

Wednesday, 12/22 – Wait Upon the Lord with Gratitude

Christmas Eve – 2:00PM and 6:00 PM

Friday – 12/24 – Wait Upon the Lord – The Lord has Come

Christmas Day – 10:00 AM with Communion

Saturday - 12/25 – Wait Upon the Lord – Let Earth Receive Her King
(No Saturday evening service.)

New Year's Eve – 6:00PM with Communion

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE for ANY ITEMS for in the **January Newsletter by December 15.**

Remember it's up to you or your family members to let the church office know if you are hospitalized.

CHURCH NEWS

OFFICIAL ACTS Baptism: Charlie Lockwood

ADVENT SUPPERS Dec. 1: High School Youth, Dec. 8: 6th grade Midweek class, Dec. 15: Circle 8
Dec. 22 NO SUPPER

FROM THE ELDERS *Brandon Johnson, Jeff Gilbert, Brent Harm, Aaron Hoffman, Terry Lovett*

St. Paul Lutheran Church Elders are here for you, and interested in your input or concerns.

Brandon Johnson 515-231-1744 brandonj2911@gmail.com

Jeff Gilbert 371-2608 jeff.b.gilbert@hotmail.com **Aaron Hoffman** 364-5166 aaronjen@netllc.net

Brent Harm 712-210-4135 harm1477@gmail.com **Terry Lovett** 300-6062 tmlovett@frontiernet.net

Keith Krager 712-830-9008 keith.krager@gmail.com

FROM THE BOARD OF HUMAN CARE *Glenda Hausman, Darci Sibenaller*

PARISH NURSE The holiday season is generally thought of as a time of joy and love, but for many people, it's a time of loneliness. Some people live far from family and miss seeing their loved ones this time of year; others dread going to holiday parties and New Year's Eve celebrations and end up staying home.



It's also common for people to feel emotional distance from the people they're with, which can result in feeling lonely even when in a room full of people. For those who feel a sense of loneliness, holidays can be a time of additional stress. (Quote from <https://www.verywellmind.com/loneliness-and-the-holidays-3144645>)

Lutherans for Life has many good resources on their website. One of them is called Life Quotes. The following is a quote for December and addresses loneliness.

"The birth of Christ is the ultimate solution to the loneliness that began in the Garden of Eden. Jesus came because God cares about lonely people, and so should we. Find opportunities to give lonely people gifts—not merely physical items, but the gift of your time, presence, and encouragement. May the glorious Gospel that is preached to you in the birth of Jesus be the gospel that you preach to yourself and your family this month." Paul David Tripp, pastor, author, conference speaker – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org Please visit lutheransforlife.org for more resources and information about the Lutherans For Life organization.

COMMUNITY BASKET Donations for **December: Breakfast items: pancake mix, syrup, cereal, cereal bars, peanut butter, jelly.** 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 Pantry** will be at **Ida Grove, United Methodist Church on December 16th, from 4:30-5:30PM.**

FROM THE BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP & MISSIONS *Brad Zobel & Deb Clausen*



Our stewardship emphasis for this year was **Fellow Workers on God's Team**. We pray that this emphasis will encourage us all to be **Fellow Workers on God's Team**. If you have not yet returned your pledge form and/or Time & Talent survey please send it to the church office as soon as possible.

VANCO MOBILE APP the VANCO Mobile App (free in your app store) is an option to be able to electronically send your contribution directly to St. Paul Lutheran Church account. We hope that this feature will give you another option. Watch for more information and updates soon, via our website, bulletin and newsletter. You always can mail in your contributions or contact your local bank to do online giving through them as well. If you are interested in this app, you can also contact the church office.

FROM SHARA OSIRO IN KENYA TRAVELS ARE SLOWLY RESUMING

It has been exciting to resume traveling again. Trips outside the country comewith an extra layer of details with covid tests and other paperwork. In August Itraveled with my colleague Britt Odemba to visit two more of the Project 24 sites,Udom and Kabichbich, in the Northwest of Kenya. About a week later, I traveledout to

Matongo to attend the graduation at Neema Lutheran College. In September, I traveled to Brazzaville in the Republic of Congo to get Rev. Moacyr Alves (one of the alliance missionaries) settled and visit with the LCMS missionaries serving there.

MILITARY BIBLESTICK – VISION 2033



Every \$25.00 gift provides a valuable service member or veteran with a Military BibleStick and more... Your generosity will also equip others — those living in the outermost areas of the world who have little or no access to Truth — with the vital weaponry of Audio Scriptures. This is Faith Comes By Hearing's Vision 2033: To share God's Word with the oral majority by the year 2033 whether that's a service member, village, community, or persecuted church. And there's more. This year Faith Comes by Hearing has a partner that will match up to \$500,000.00. 53% of monies gathered will be specified for Military Bible Sticks. Please give through our Church Office. Make your check payable to St. Paul Lutheran Church and on the memo line write "BibleStick." In past years we have averaged between \$3000 - \$5000. Let's see what we can do in 2021! **Deadline for donations is Dec. 26 for matching funds.**

BACK-PACK BLESSINGS Please consider donating to "Backpack Blessings" which will help supply the school kids with food items to help offset the at-home food insecurity in our local school system. We have a display and donation bin in the narthex and will also accept cash donations to purchase needed items.

MISSION CENTRAL EVENTS Mission Central – LCMS World Mission



40718 Highway E 16, Mapleton, Iowa 51034 PH: 712-882-1029

Gary.Thies@lcms.org

Be sure to check the bulletin board in the hallway by upstairs Conference Room for information on Missionaries visiting Mission Central this month.

FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES *Ross Ladwig, John Brinkman, Dennis Clausen, Dale Edsen*

Project Updates: Repairing Education building heating and air-conditioning.

FROM THE BOARD OF EVANGELISM / ASSIMILATION *Jen Hoffman & Kristy Gilbert*

JOIN US FOR COFFEE AND FELLOWSHIP ON SUNDAY MORNINGS we will have coffee and treats in the fellowship hall immediately following the Sunday worship service. Please plan to join us for coffee, a sweet treat and great conversation. Everyone is welcome!

Please look for a sign up sheet in the Narthex to sign up to share food items on a particular Sunday morning, or contact Jen Hoffman or Kristy Gilbert. There will be no Coffee & Fellowship on Sunday, December 26th

MAIN STREET LIVING IS A LUTHERAN TELEVISION PROGRAM that is endorsed by the Iowa West District



of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. The program receives no funding from the District, but is totally funded by viewers and congregations of the KCAU Viewing area. The program is broadcast on **KCAU, the ABC network affiliate in Sioux City on Sunday morning, starting at 10:00 AM.** The first 30 minutes are remastered episodes of the popular "This is the Life" series that was very popular in the 70's and 80's. The second half of the program is a modified Lutheran worship service that features a different Pastor each

week, from the station's broadcast area.

FROM THE BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION *Jon Devitt & Robyn Devitt*

CONFIRMATION AND MIDWEEK CLASSES 5:45-6:45PM, for grades 3rd -8th

There will be NO MIDWEEK on Wednesday, December 22

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS meets from 9:30-10:30AM on Wed mornings in the Conference Room in the lower level.

SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:15-11:15AM, grades: 4 year old preschool – 12th grade

There will be NO SUNDAY SCHOOL on Sunday, December 26th

SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE CLASS join us in the lower level Conference Room. 10:30-11:15AM

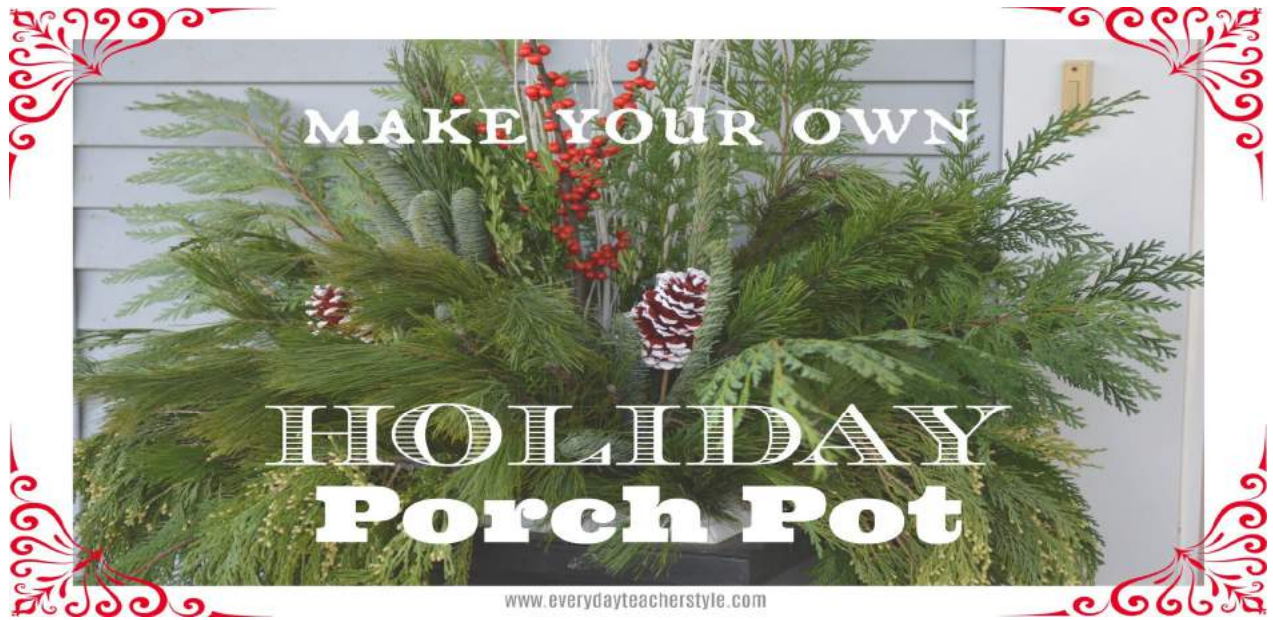
"THE TRUTH" BIBLE CLASS FOR 8TH-12TH GRADES Sundays, 10:15-11:15AM

"THE MID WAY" 5TH - 8TH GRADES Sunday, from 1:00-3:00PM

"THE HIGH WAY" FOR 8TH -12TH GRADES Sunday, from 5:00-7:00PM

THEOLOGY AT SUBWAY Thursdays, 6:00-7:00PM

FROM THE BOARD OF YOUTH AND FAMILY LIFE *Karen Petersen and Synda Jepsen*



When: Sunday, December 5 (2 sessions: 1:00 to 2:30 and 2:30 to 4:00 PM)
 Where: The Depot at Moorehead Park



What: **Bring your own pot with dirt or foam.** Please keep your pot under 13” across to allow greens for everyone. Greens, twigs, bows, and pinecones will be provided, but feel free to bring any of your own décor to fancy up your holiday pot.

Cost is \$25 and sign up is required. Please call Diane at the church office at **364-2918**.

Call or text Synda Jepsen 371-9087 or Jen Hoffman 364-5246 with questions.

All proceeds will go toward costs to send St Paul Lutheran youth to the National Youth Gathering in Houston this July.



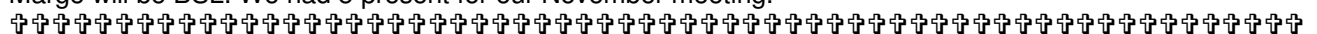
LWML LADIES BIBLE STUDY FOR DECEMBER

RUTH (2) will meet on December 2 at 1:00PM at the church to decorate for Christmas. Linda will be BSL, we had 9 present for our Nov. meeting. We will put up Advent wreath after the Thanksgiving Eve Service.

LOIS (3) will meet on December 2 in the Conference Room at 1:30PM. Janice will be BSL. We had 6 members present for our November meeting.

EUNICE (10) will meet on December 2 at the Bread Box in Battle Creek at 2:30PM. Joan will be hostess and Karen will be BSL. We had 5 present for our November meeting.

JOHANNA(12) will meet on December 2 at 6:30PM in the Conference room. Karen L will be hostess and Marge will be BSL. We had 5 present for our November meeting.



Live Nativity will be on Sunday, December 19th at 4:00PM

This will include Preschool-5th grades, Midweek and Sunday School kids will have practice times during Midweek and Sunday School

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Starting January newsletter we will start for those who requested email version, pick their newsletter up at church or mail to shut in's and a handful of individuals who requested. If you have any questions or requests please let the church office know 364-2918

NEWSLYF

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Upcoming Events

Advent Supper

Wednesday, December 1

"The Highway" Christmas

Date TBD

"MidWay" Christmas

Date TBD

Drive-Thru Nativity

Sunday, December 19th



The Highway
(8th-12th Grade)

December Date TBD



"The Truth"
Sunday Bible Study

Every Sunday from 10:15-11:15
(5th-12th Grade)



MidWay
(5th-7th Grade)

December Date/Time TBD



DECEMBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Church Services on Sunday: Live Streamed Facebook parking lot tune into 97.1 2:00PM local cable channel			Acolyte: Kadyn 1 7:00AM Bible Study @ Zimmys 9:30AM Bible Study 11:00-4:00 Bloodmobile 5-6:45PM Advent Meal 5:45-6:45PM Midweek 7:00PM ADVENT WORSHIP	2	3	4 Acolyte: Creighton Worship Service w/Communion 6:00PM
Second Sunday in Advent 5 Acolyte: Kasey 9:00AM Worship w/Communion 10:15 Fellowship & Coffee 10:15-11:15AM Sunday School 10:30-11:15AM Adult Bible Study 1-2:30 and 2:30-4PM Porch Pots at Depot, Moorehead Park	6 Bells 6:30PM	7 Elders 7:00PM	8 Acolyte: Evan 7:00AM Bible Study@Zimmys 9:30AM Bible Study 5-6:45PM Advent Meal 5:45-6:45PM Midweek 7:00PM ADVENT WORSHIP	9 Golden Horizons 2:00PM Willowdale 2:00	10	11 Acolyte: Chase Worship Service 6:00PM
3 rd Sunday in Advent 12 Acolyte: Courtney 9:00AM Worship w/Communion 10:15 Fellowship & Coffee 10:15-11:15AM Sunday School 10:30-11:15AM Adult Bible Study	13 Bells 6:30PM	14 Church Council 7:00PM	15 Acolyte: Journey 7:00AM Bible Study @Zimmys 9:30AM Bible Study 5-6:45PM Advent Meal 5:45-6:45PM Midweek 7:00PM ADVENT WORSHIP	16	17	18 Acolyte: Kylie Worship Service w/Communion 6:00PM
4 th Sunday in Advent 19 Acolyte: Jack 9:00AM Worship w/Communion 10:15 Fellowship & Coffee 10:15-11:15AM Sunday School 10:30-11:15AM Adult Bible Study 4:00PM LIVE NATIVITY – 4yr preschool-5th grades	20 MCC 10:30AM LWML Bible Study Leaders 4:00PM Bells 6:30PM	21 Winter begins	22 Acolyte: Hildie 7:00AM Bible Study 9:30AM Bible Study No Advent Meal No Midweek 7:00PM ADVENT WORSHIP	23	24 Christmas Eve Worship 2:00PM Acolyte Sam 6:00PM Acolyte: Whitney	25 Acolyte: Matthew Christmas Day Worship Service w/Communion 10:00AM No Saturday Eve Worship
First Sunday after Christmas 26 Acolyte: Jenna 9:00AM Worship No Fellowship & Coffee No Sunday School No Adult Bible Study	27 Bells 6:30PM	28	29	30	31 Acolyte: Kasey New Year's Eve Worship w/Communion 6:00PM	1 Acolyte: Kadyn Worship Service w/Communion 6:00PM