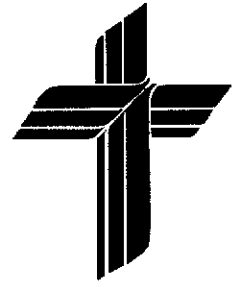


THE MESSENGER

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
511 S. Walnut
Strasburg, Illinois 62465
(217) 644-2661
stpaulsstrasburg@gmail.com



DECEMBER 2024

Dear Friends in Christ:

I am going to do something a little different this month, because of the length of this third point from the Formula of Concord, Article Eleven dealing with Election, which reads "By His Holy Spirit, through the Word, when it is preached, heard, and pondered, Christ will be effective and active in us, will convert hearts to true repentance and preserve them in the true faith."

I'm going to be breaking Point Three into three parts, making them bite size rather than a whole banquet. The first part of point three being... **Christ will be effective and active in us,**

Jesus sent the Holy Spirit or as He called Him another Helper and the only way that we know and can learn about Jesus is from His Word. St. Paul by this same Holy Spirit reminds us that nature does show us that there is a God, the God, who created all things, but to know His Son Jesus is only possible through the Word. Because the Word is about Jesus as He says in John 5:39-40, ³⁹*You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me,* ⁴⁰*yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.* As believers we know that the only hope that we have in this life is Jesus, and what He has done and continues to do for us. That is also problematic for some people in that they can't or won't believe that Jesus is God, nor that He desires the best for them now and eternally. Even though Jesus specifically tells the whole world in John 5 whose fault it is that people don't believe in Him. We know that Jesus came so that all could be saved, but we also know that because of sin those same people that Jesus died for have refused to acknowledge Him as God and sadly people will continue to do that until the Lord returns.

The Apostle John reminds believers why we are believers and how important that is for us, 1 John 5:20 ²⁰*And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.* No one intuitively knows Jesus, because if they could then they would have been the ones that came to faith in Him through their own understanding, which can't happen because we are all born in sin. Which is exactly the point that St. Paul makes in Colossians 2:13 ¹³*And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses...* God's work is God's work, and we can't usurp nor plagiarize His work for us, by assuming it as something that we have done.

Even the faith that we have in Him, which we must have to believe in Him in the first place has been given to us so that we can proclaim as St. Paul does in Ephesians 3:17 ¹⁷*so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love...* As a believer we have that great promise that God is with us, but even better is in us, which is only possible for one who believes the word that He has given us which is possible because He has given us the faith to believe in Him in the first place as I said above.

If I am a child of God, by the means that He has called me and preserves me, such as through Baptism, the Lord's Supper, and His Word, then Jesus is being effective and active in our lives.



ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 - Kathie Helmuth; Sarah Luce
- 2 - Brittany & Rusty* Clifton (7)
- 3 - Lisa Cress; Darrell Gilbert; Joe & Linda Oakley (42); Nick & Kelly McCormick (19);
- 5 - Jacob* Tabbert; Parker Parisien
- 7 - Doris Cress; Karla Tabbert
- 8 - Rebecca Schlechte
- 9- Brittani Oller; Susan Pikes
- 11-Sue Bowers;
- 12-Kyle Knop
- 13-Neil Pikes
- 14-Debra Rincker
- 15-Chris Storm
- 16-Doris Stremming; Blakely Tabbert
- 17-Collin Ohnesorge
- 18-Tina Daniels; Jacob Kramer
- 20-Ellen McCoy
- 21-Mark Kull; Cody* Logue; Christian Merriman; Shelby Wirth
- 22-Jennifer* Wirth
- 23-Molly Gilbert; Gentry Fender
- 24-Maude Hartman; Phyllis Weiss; Luke Wetherell
- 25-Chris Tabbert
- 26-Kingston* Rincker
- 27-Don Doehring; Breck Beltz
- 28-Noah Vonderheide
- 29-Mariah Williams; Stephanie Tracy; Mary Lou & Gary Brehmer (45)
- 30-Rachel & Jessie* Wallin (7)



- Mon. Dec 2 Cantata Rehearsal 7:00 P.M.
- Sat. Dec. 7 Cantata Rehearsal (Time TBA)
- Sun Dec 8 **Christmas Cantata 7:00P.M.**
- Tue. Dec. 10 Choir Rehearsal
- Sun. Dec. 15 Choir Sings
- Wed. Dec 25 (Christmas)



Pastor Whybrew: chebrev@yahoo.com
 Church: stpaulsstrasburg@gmail.com
 Website: stpaul-strasburg.com
 YouTube: St. Paul's Lutheran Church Strasburg Illinois
 Facebook: St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Articles for Newsletter & Guide

Information for the Guide needs to be in the office by 8:00AM on **Wednesday morning**.
 Articles for the Newsletter should be in the office by the **15th** of the month.



WDS Kids Christmas Practice

- Wednesday Dec. 4 7-8PM Practice
- Wednesday Dec. 11 7-8PM Practice
- Wednesday Dec. 18 7-8PM Practice

**Tuesday Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Program
6:30PM**

Pause for Peace

As your day draws to a close, spend a few moments with God, reflecting on His love and care for you throughout the day. Just dial 644-3124 to hear His message.

DECEMBER SCHEDULE

Greeters-

- Dec. 1- Bob & Ronda Schlechte
- Dec. 8- Gerry & Dawn Schlechte
- Dec. 15- Otto & Lisa Rincker
- Dec. 22- Dean Schultz
- Dec. 29- Patsy Lenz

JANUARY SCHEDULE

- Jan. 5- Barb Ohnesorge
- Jan. 12-Gary Wirth
- Jan. 19-Gary & Karen Wirth
- Jan. 26-Pastor & Doreen Whybrew



Advent Worship Schedule – 2024

Dec. 4 @Grace – 10:30 AM
Dec. 4 @ St. Paul’s – 6:30 PM
Dec. 11 @ Grace- 10:30 AM
Dec. 11 @ St. Paul- 6:30 PM
Dec. 18 @ Grace- 10:30 AM
Dec. 18 @ St. Paul- 6:30 PM

Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve Service- Grace 5:00 PM
Christmas Eve Service-St Paul’s 6:30PM
Christmas Day Service – Grace – 9:00AM

New Year’s Eve Worship Schedule

New Year’s Eve -Grace -6:30 PM
New Year’s Day- St. Paul’s 10:00AM

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O Holy Night

61ST Annual Christmas Cantata The 61st Annual Christmas Cantata presented by singers from the area Lutheran Churches will be December 8, 2024, 7:00 pm at Trinity Lutheran Church in Stewardson. This year’s Cantata will be under the direction of Mark Wascher and accompanied by Krystal Friese. Singers are from Faith, Shumway, Grace, Strasburg, St. Paul, Sigel, St. Paul, Strasburg and Trinity, Stewardson Lutheran Churches. Come and hear the good news of the Savior’s birth one Holy Night long ago!



Thank you We would like to thank those who supplied treats to the Weekday School children in October: Mariah Williams, Lisa Shelton, and the High School Sunday School Class (3weeks). Thank you so much!

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Christmas Caroling

The LYF will be doing their annual caroling event on Sunday, December 1st at 4:00 p.m. We would like to invite the youth as well as members and families in the congregation who would like to take part! Join us as we sing praises to God and bring others some holiday cheer! After caroling, we will meet back at St. Paul’s for pizza, salad and other refreshments. If you would like to join us, please sign up on the sheet in the narthex so that we can arrange the appropriate amount of drivers and food. If you have questions, please contact Sarah Luce.

Christmas Cards

Tis the season! Boxed Christmas cards are for sale in the St. Paul’s choir room/nursery. Prices are marked and please put payments in the provided envelopes and drop off at the church office. Check out the new selection and help support the LYF

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January LYF Meeting LYF will meet on Sunday, January 5th at St. Paul’s Church, 6:30PM. High school students, join us for bible study and snacks!



Sympathy Please keep the family of Mary Rincker in your thoughts and prayers. Mary passed away on Tuesday, November 5, 2024.
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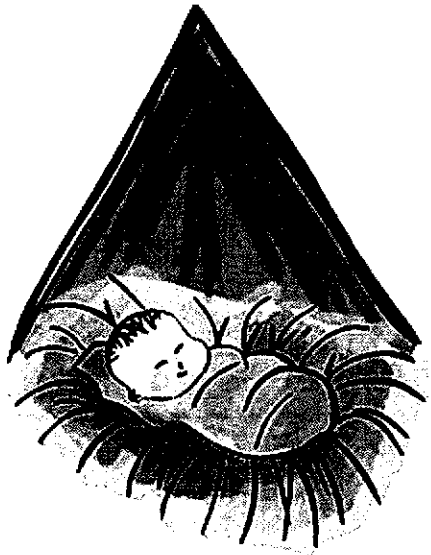


BAPTISM

Baptism Truett Dean Williams, son of Jesse and Mariah Williams will be baptized this morning, Sunday, November 3, 2024. Sponsors are Clay Tabbert and Whitney Williams. God's blessings to Truett and his family.

The Annual Weekday Christmas Party will be held on Tuesday, November 26, from 6:30-7:00. There will be games and refreshments, and all the kids will receive a gift from the Board of Education. At 7:00, the St. Paul's students will go over to the church for our first Christmas Eve Program practice.

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CHRISTMAS



Our children are busy preparing for the Christmas Eve program. This year's title is "His Name Shall Be Called". The children will explain the different names of Jesus we so often use around Christmas time. Hymns that will be sung that evening are also centered around this theme. Autumn McCormick is leading the preschool and kindergarten students from her Sunday School class. Dee Dee Batson and Susie Allen are directing the program for grades 1-8. Sheryl Vonderheide is leading the music and chimes.

The congregation will be surprised and delighted as Mary and Joseph enter during the reading of Luke 2. The program begins at 6:30 p.m. on December 24.

Offerings from the Christmas Eve program go towards the Education (Sunday School) fund.

Lutheran Ladies of Strasburg Minutes – November 7, 2024

Pastor Whybrew opened the meeting with devotion from Ps. 146:1.

President Muriel Merriman, called the meeting to order. Eighteen members answered roll call. The Secretary and Treasures reports were read and approved.

We received a thank you from the Nick Oller family and In His Hands Mission.

Our new officers for the next two years will be: Vice-President, Cindy Roley and Treasurer, Charlene Telgmann. Tammy Sentel will replace Vivian as Secretary.

Kay gave a report on the St. John's Lydia Guild Social. Very good speaker, very good food, and everyone enjoyed the evening.

Maggie gave a report on information concerning the Hurricane in the South. We decided to contribute, along with Maude, to supply medical help to Ashville, N.C.

Christmas Tree for the St. Paul's Social Hall will be decorated on December 1st. It is the Ladies turn to do the decorating.

Christmas Cookies, coffee, and punch will be served by Karen, Lori, Charlene, Judy, Maggie, and Cindy on December 20th and 21st at the bank in Strasburg. Members were asked to contribute one dozen cookies for this Project.

Upcoming events: LWML National Convention, June 26-29, 2025 in Omaha, Nebraska.

The December Flower Committee will be Doreen from St. Paul's and the Christmas Committee from Grace. Muriel thanked the November Committee of Leigha and Doris Supan and our Hostesses Karen and Muriel. The meeting in December will be our Project of singing Christmas Carols to Memory Care facilities followed by lunch, each member paying for their own lunch.

Our verse for the day was, "He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy." Prov. 28:13.

We closed with prayer. Our next meeting will be December 5th at Friday's after we complete our December Project.

Happy Birthday to Holly and Connie. Happy Anniversary to Lori and Scott Pieper.

Vivian Granat, Secretary.

CRADLE ROLL
December 2024

Grandparents can have significant influence in the lives of young grandchildren. They can also be helpful to the parents of those grandchildren who are their adult children. A mentor so to speak. But this relationship can be one of contention. Here are some ideas to help grandparents/parents be that helpful, loving mentor.

- Make yourself available. Let your adult child know they are a priority, and you are available.
- Become an askable person. When your child has a question or needs help, you want to be one of the first people he/she turns to. Two phrases an adult child would like to hear from you are: "Feel free to call" and "Let me know how I can help."
- Regularly call with no agenda and no strings attached. It is often during the normal, everyday conversations when your adult child will casually bring up a topic they have been thinking about, and ask for your advice. If your adult child is busy and can't have a long conversation, don't be discouraged. Simply take what they are able to give, and commit to regularly communicating with them.
- Ask how you can pray for them. The act of asking shows your adult child that you care which may encourage him/her to share the joys and challenges he/she is facing and lead to opportunities for you to lovingly care for and provide guidance.

As your adult child seeks and accepts your guidance, you can help him/her made wise decisions. Grandparents must know God's Word because we are not wise and have nothing to offer apart from Scripture. The study of God's Word is essential for all ages and stages of life.

Taken from Grandparenting by Dr. Josh Mulvihill, Beacon House Publishing, 2018, pp.86, 144-147.

St. Pual Lutheran Church

Walking chart

Month: **Dec-24**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Weekly Totals
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total Laps _____ Total Miles _____
Laps _____	Laps _____	Laps _____	Laps _____	Laps _____	Laps _____	Laps _____	
Miles _____	Miles _____	Miles _____	Miles _____	Miles _____	Miles _____	Miles _____	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	Total Laps _____ Total Miles _____
Laps _____	Laps _____	Laps _____	Laps _____	Laps _____	Laps _____	Laps _____	
Miles _____	Miles _____	Miles _____	Miles _____	Miles _____	Miles _____	Miles _____	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	Total Laps _____ Total Miles _____
Laps _____	Laps _____	Laps _____	Laps _____	Laps _____	Laps _____	Laps _____	
Miles _____	Miles _____	Miles _____	Miles _____	Miles _____	Miles _____	Miles _____	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	Total Laps _____ Total Miles _____
Laps _____	Laps _____	Laps _____	Laps _____	Laps _____	Laps _____	Laps _____	
Miles _____	Miles _____	Miles _____	Miles _____	Miles _____	Miles _____	Miles _____	
29	30	31					Total Laps _____ Total Miles _____
Laps _____	Laps _____	Laps _____	Laps _____	Laps _____	Laps _____	Laps _____	
Miles _____	Miles _____	Miles _____	Miles _____	Miles _____	Miles _____	Miles _____	
Monthly Totals: Laps _____ Miles _____							

Name _____

"Walking for St. Paul"

Tally sheet for miles per month

Name	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Totals
Alicia	134.2												134.2
Autumn	63.3	27.1											90.4
Bob and Anna	21.5	20											41.5
Chris	54.5	48											102.5
Dennis	9.7	6											15.7
Don and Angie	59.4												59.4
Gary	44	42											86
Gymme	22	28											50
Heath	13	3											16
Holly	7	7											14
Jay	51	58											109
Jim	17.8												17.8
Johnna	68.5	66											134.5
Karen	133	130											263
Kenna	4												4
Lisa	134.6	132.3											266.9
Lorelei	25.5	20											45.5
Lori	118	115.5											233.5
Mark	70	115.4											185.4
Melissa	62.2	60.2											122.4
Pastor	152.6	60.2											212.8
Phyllis	43	46											89
Sarah	54.9	57											111.9
Scott	89	105											194
Sharon	17.8	22.5											40.3
Stephanie	150.6												150.6
Susan	60.7												60.7
Mariah	3.6	7.2											10.8
Jesse		1.5											1.5
	1685.4	1177.9											2861.8

Congratulations "Walkers":

We have reached a total of 1685.4 miles covered by 29 participants, in our first month of walking. This month 23 have walked 1177.9 miles. We are over **HALF** way to our goal. Great job walkers

Remember this is not a contest, and any amount you walk is one step closer to our goal.

Please turn in your tally sheets for November by the 10th of December. December tally sheets can be picked up at the door to the church office by the end of the month.



Thanks to all our walkers

How to share HOPE in your family this Advent Season

Here is a fantastic new Christmas tradition to start with your family and friends this year. Use this reverse advent calendar to collect baby items each day during December to add to a box or laundry basket.

In January (since we are closed between Christmas and New Years), bring your donation to one of our Family Life Center locations to bless the moms, dads, and babies we help in your community!

1

Diapers
All Sizes

2

Baby Wipes

3

Onesies

4

Pacifiers

5

Baby
Bottles

6

Baby
Blankets

7

Thermometers

8

Baby Winter
Coats

9

Baby
Sleepers
NB - 12
Months

10

Baby
Socks

11

Baby Outfits
NB- 12
Months

12

Bibs

13

Children's
Books

14

Baby Hats
All Seasons

15

Hooded
Towels &
Washcloths

16

Baby Wash &
Shampoo

17

Swaddling/
Receiving
Blankets

18

Sippy Cups

19

Baby Lotion

20

Pull Ups
All Sizes

21

Safety 1st
Baby Kits

22

Burp Cloths

23

Baby Toys

24

Baby Shoes



Family Life
Center

Reverse ADVENT CALENDAR

1



2



3



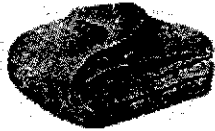
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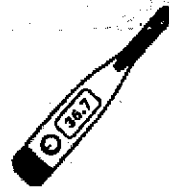
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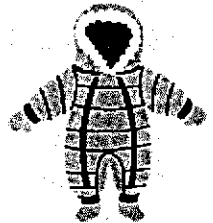
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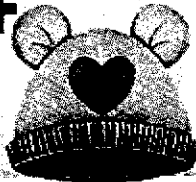
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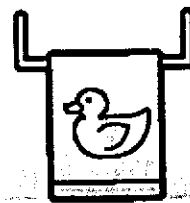
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14



15



16



17



18



19



20



21



22



23



24

