



St. Paul News

December 2022

St. Paul Lutheran Church

*The Lutheran Church -
Missouri Synod*

1050 10th Avenue
Granite Falls, MN 56241

Rev. Jonathan Varns
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Chairman

Brad Christensen

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OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of
St. Paul Lutheran Church
is to promote the
worship of the Triune God
as revealed in Holy Scriptures,
by teaching the Gospel of
Jesus Christ and administering
the Sacraments, in order to
equip people for Christian
life and service.

Pastor's Message

Christmas is upon yet again! And may I remind you again this year the reason for the season – Jesus! John 1:14: “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.” This little verse is loaded with meaning, meaning for you hear and now as you start another season of Christmas.

The word “dwelt” is the word for “tabernacled” or “tented.” This paired with the word “glory,” it is obvious that John is making an Old Testament allusion. In Exodus 40:34, we read of the “Tent of Meeting” or the Tabernacle filled with the glory of the Lord. The Israelites had been in slavery in Egypt, but God had set them free! Now the Tabernacle was where God dwelt and led His people.

In Exodus 40 we also read that God went with the Israelites wherever they went. Ultimately God would lead them to the Promised Land, the land He promised to give to their forefather Abraham.

John and the other apostles came to see that the Old Testament history of Israel was a foreshadowing of the life of Jesus. Jesus is born in Bethlehem, but because evil rulers wanted to kill Him, He like the Israelites had to go to Egypt. And as the Israelites passed through the waters of the Red Sea, Jesus starts His public ministry by passing through the waters of John the Baptist's baptism in the Jordan River. And immediately after passing through the water, Jesus, like the Israelites, was led out into the wilderness. And after that, He lived among the apostles in His tent of human flesh, guiding and leading them, and ultimately, following His death and resurrection, Jesus ascended into the promised land of heaven.

When John writes his Gospel, he is desperately trying to get you to see what he sees. He says so in John 20:30: “These things were written so that you may believe that Jesus in the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.”

John invites you to believe in the One whom all the Old Testament history points to. Jesus comes to you in your slavery to sin and delivers you. Your life may still feel like wandering in the wilderness much of the time, but Jesus promises to be with you always, wherever you go. He will never leave you or forsake you. He will lead you and guide you through all the struggles and temptations you face. And if you believe in Him, when you die, He will lead you to the ultimate promised land of eternal life with God Himself in the new creation!

This Christmas season, may the coming of the savior of the world dwell richly in you and guide you through the ups and downs, the warm joys of family and giving gifts, as well as the struggle of those who are no longer with you, the changes the years bring, and the anxiety of getting everything done. Jesus goes with you and has released you, freed you, from all those things you “gotta” do. No, one thing is necessary! Jesus is the reason for the season!

+God's Peace+

Pastor Jonathan Varns

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Council Notes

The monthly Board of Elders and Church Council meeting for December has changed to Tuesday the 6th. The times remain the same - Board of Elders at 6 pm followed by the council at 7 pm.

The Quarterly Voters' Meeting meets Sunday, December 11th directly following the service. The 2023 Congregational Budget will be presented. All confirmed members who are 18 years of age and older are encouraged to this meeting and to share in the decision making of the congregation.

We are looking for secretary for the church council. If interested please contact one of the council members. We are also looking for someone to fill the chair of the SAC committee.

Starting **January 1, 2023** (January 2023 Newsletter) will only be sending out the newsletter to those homebound or special circumstances due to increased costs. The options to receive it will be to have one put in your church mailbox, receive via email or view on our website.

Christmas Potluck



December 4th at 5 pm

Shoebboxes

This year we were able to give a total of 72 completed boxes to Operation Christmas Child. We gathered items and had a packing party on December 13th to complete some boxes, with the rest donated by individuals. Boxes contain things such as hygiene items, school supplies, toys and clothing. The OCC shoebboxes will be processed and shipped to ministry partners in over 100 countries around the world. Trained volunteers will not only deliver the gifts, but teach the recipients about the Lord Jesus Christ through a program called The Greatest Journey. Just think what an impact these gifts will have! Many thanks to all who participated this year! Molly Hoff, Project Coordinator

LWML News

Mites can do mitey things! The monthly "Noisy Offerings", which are always held the third Sunday, are a success! Thanks to all of you who find pocket change again and again to fill our cans! November offering was \$25.87. These offerings will go toward LWML missions.

Mark your calendar for the next St. Paul LWML quarterly meeting that will be Monday, January 16th at 2 pm in the parish hall. (Please note the time change.) All ladies are invited to join us.

Snow Policy

If Sunday Worship Service is cancelled, all other events for the day are also cancelled. If YME School classes are cancelled due to the weather, all church events for that day are also cancelled. The closing can be heard on KMGH-FM (105.5), KKRC-FM (93.9), KDMA-AM (1460) and also will be posted on Facebook. In regards to worship services during the winter season, please remember to **use your best judgment** in terms of going out in wintry weather. If it is unsafe for you to be out (even in your own driveway), don't go out. Although Pastor is glad to visit you in the hospital, he would rather visit you in your home! So, be safe; missing church due to weather is not an offense to God; remember how much he cares for you too.

Bake Sale

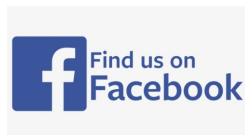
The bake sale that held on November 13th was a success with \$601.04 collected in sales. Thanks to all who donated and purchased goodies.

Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for 2023 will be placed in your mail boxes in early December. Please start to use the **pink** envelopes starting January 1, 2023.

Church Directory

The 2023 Church Directory will be available in January. A copy of the old directory has been placed in the narthex area where you may update the listings for yourself and any family members.



Christmas Trivia

1. A manger is a... a. Stable for domestic animals b. Wooden hay storage bin c. Feeding trough d. Barn
2. What does the Bible say that the innkeeper said to Mary and Joseph? a. "There is no room in the inn." b. "I have a stable you can use." c. "Come back later and I should have some vacancies." d. Both a and b e. None of the above
3. Which animals does the Bible say were present at Jesus' birth? a. Cows, sheep, goats b. Cows, donkeys, goats c. Sheep and goats only d. Miscellaneous barnyard animals e. None of the above
4. Who saw the star in the east? a. Shepherds b. Mary and Joseph c. Three kings d. Both A and C e. None of the above
5. There was snow that first Christmas... a. Only in Bethlehem b. All over Israel c. Nowhere in Israel d. Somewhere in Israel
6. What is a heavenly host? a. The angel at the gate of heaven b. The angel who serves refreshments in heaven c. An angel choir d. An angel army e. None of the above
7. What is frankincense? a. precious metal b. precious fabric c. precious perfume d. None of the above
8. What is myrrh? a. Middle Eastern money b. A drink c. An easily shaped metal d. A spice used for burying people e. None of the above
9. How many wise men came to see Jesus? a. 3 b. 6 c. 9 d. 12 e. We don't know.
10. Where did the wise men find Jesus? a. In a manger b. In a stable c. In Nazareth d. In Saudi Arabia e. In a house f. None of the above
11. When the wise men found Jesus he was... a. A babe-wrapped in swaddling clothes b. A young child c. A boy in the temple d. A grown man
12. The "star in the east" that the wise men followed... a. Stayed in the same place their entire journey b. Disappeared and reappeared c. Moved ahead of them and stopped over the place where Jesus was d. Was just a mirage e. one of the above

(Answers with explanations will be in January 2023 Newsletter.)



Vital Statistics

November Attendance and Finances

Date	Attend	Comm	Offering
Sun, Nov 6	50	45	\$6,579.00
Sun, Nov 13	52	43	\$1,580.00
Sun, Nov 20	63	52	\$2,771.00
Wed, Nov 23	40	---	\$455.00
Sun, Nov 27	59	52	\$2,152.00
Wed, Nov 30	N/A		

(Offering needed per Sunday in December to reach the 2022 budget is \$7,690.24)

December Birthdays

Dec 2	Lisa Baker Ethan Staab Donald Steffen
Dec 3	Nick Enninga
Dec 5	Ryan Luepke
Dec 10	Jeanne Gabbert
Dec 11	Julie Cuklanz
Dec 13	Kristi Klassen Katelyn Luepke
Dec 14	Pat Stengel Krystal Twedt
Dec 16	Darlene Yeager
Dec 17	Tracy Hammer Dan Hildahl
Dec 18	Judy Hempel Otto Luepke
Dec 19	Henry Soukup
Dec 20	Cheryl Bohlman
Dec 21	Zachary Markgraf Alicia Lubrant
Dec 22	DuWayne Galow
Dec 23	Rebecca Varns
Dec 24	Maria Christensen Pam Stengel
Dec 26	Nathan Canatsey
Dec 27	Jayne Baumann Vicki Patterson
Dec 28	Tyler Patterson Sydney Thompson
Dec 30	Janel Guertin Odell Rude
Dec 31	Taylor Hinz Sherwood Mason

Birthday Blessings to you all.

Please contact the church office if we missed yours.

Financials as of 11-27-2022

Year to Date Actual Contributions	\$124,643.19
Year to Date Contributions Needed	<u>\$158,787.86</u>
Difference	(\$34,144.67)
Year to Date Actual Expenses	\$155,404.13
Year to Date Budgeted Expenses	<u>\$158,787.86</u>
Difference	\$3,383.73

SAC Groups will be our greeters and ushers.
 If this is your month to serve, please prayerfully
 consider where you are able to and willing to help.

Group 2

Serving for December

Anderson, Bryan and Renae
 Berends, Randy and Tamra
 Beyer, Brian, and Laura
 Cobb, Kris and Holly
 Enninga, Dan and Kathy
 Enninga, Dustin and Krystle
 Guertin, Sarah
 Hammer, Brett
 Hammer, Mary
 Hempel, Terry and Rosemary
 Hinz, Paul and Diane
 Jeseritz, Randy
 Johnson, Ted and Kathy
 Kirschbaum, Janet
 Korthuis, John and Kathy
 Luepke, Otto and Theresa
 Miller, Eugene
 Myers, Troy and Jenna
 Nokleby, Dorothy
 Podratz, Ken and Carol
 Redepenning, Tony and Amy
 Rigge, Jim and Cindy
 Sherman, Leslie and Renee
 Sietsema, Barb
 Stengel, Allen and Pat
 Streich, Chris
 Streich, LouAnn
 Varns, Pastor and Lindsay
 Wegner, James and Eileen
 Zempel, Meredith
 Zempel, Nicole

Group 4

Serving for January

Banken, Jim and Janine
 Baumann, Jayne
 Bruss, Margie
 Canatsey, Kristin
 Donner, Jenelle
 Donner, Jessica
 Ebel, Colton and Emily
 Edman, Tom and Tammy
 Gabbert, Don and Jeanne
 Hildahl, Dan and Valerie
 Holtan, Marie
 Hoyer, Lanny
 Jeseritz, Tanya
 Johnson, Mark
 Keller, Katie
 Kling, Verlyn and Barb
 Kvam, Carrie
 Kvam, Gordon
 Kvam, LeRoy and Debra
 Luepke, Mike and Pam
 Meyer, Greg and Jackie
 Meyer, Larry and Karla
 Petersen, Loren and Marci
 Reese, Tom
 Rude, Odell and Carol
 Schultz, Dennis and Phyllis
 Skjefte, Dave and Val
 Smith, Dennis and Lu-Ann
 Steffen, Kerry and Julie
 Timm, Craig and Susan
 Timm, Daphne
 Timm, Lee
 Twedt, Charles and Kari
 Wilking, Larry
 Yeager, Dave and Darlene

Daily Bible Readings for December

<u>Day</u>	<u>Morning Study</u>	<u>Evening Study</u>
1	Ezek. 45,46	II Peter 3
2	Ezek. 47,48	I John 1
3	Daniel 1,2	I John 2
4	Daniel 3,4	I John 3
5	Daniel 5,6	I John 4
6	Daniel 7,8	I John 5
7	Daniel 9,10	II John 1
8	Daniel 11,12	III John 1
9	Hosea 1-4	Jude 1
10	Hosea 5-8	Rev. 1
11	Hosea 9-11	Rev. 2
12	Hosea 12-14	Rev. 3
13	Joel 1-3	Rev. 4
14	Amos 1-3	Rev. 5
15	Amos 4-6	Rev. 6
16	Amos 7-9	Rev. 7
17	Obad. 1	Rev. 8
18	Jonah 1-4	Rev. 9
19	Micah 1-3	Rev. 10
20	Micah 4,5	Rev. 11
21	Micah 6,7	Rev. 12
22	Nahum 1-3	Rev. 13
23	Habak. 1-3	Rev. 14
24	Zeph. 1-3	Rev. 15
25	Haggai 1-2	Rev. 16
26	Zech. 1-3	Rev. 17
27	Zech. 4-6	Rev. 18
28	Zech. 7-9	Rev. 19
29	Zech. 10-12	Rev. 20
30	Zech. 13,14	Rev. 21
31	Malachi 1-4	Rev. 22

Social Activity Committee

2023 Serving Schedule

Group 1

Serving for February, June, October.

Group 2

Serving for March, July, November.

Group 3

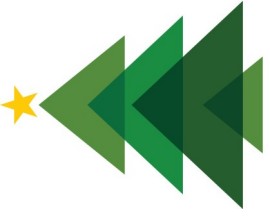
Serving for April, August, December.

Group 4

Serving for January, May, September.

A new rotation of the SAC groups
 will start in 2023.

SAC Group 4 will start the new year
 serving for January.



DECEMBER 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Elders Jason Hoff and Jim Rigge	Altar Guild Kathy Enninga Carol Gabbert Jenn Luepke		1 9:30 am Women's Bible Study at Granite Ridge	2	3
4 8:30 am Adult Bible Study 9:30 am Communion Service 5 pm Congregational Christmas Potluck	5 8 am Men's Bible Study	6 6 pm Board of Elders 7 pm Church Council	7 5 pm K-6 Midweek Class 6 pm Midweek Advent Service 6:30 pm Handbell Practice 7 pm 7-8 gr Conf Class	8 9:30 am Women's Bible Study at Granite Ridge	9	10
11 8:30 am Adult Bible Study 9:30 am Communion Service 10:45 am Quarterly Voters Meeting.	12 8 am Men's Bible Study	13 8:30 am Quilting	14 5 pm K-6 Midweek Class 6 pm Midweek Advent Service 6:30 pm Handbell Practice 7 pm 7-8 gr Conf Class	15 9:30 am Women's Bible Study at Granite Ridge	16 Newsletter Articles Due	17
18 8:30 am Adult Bible Study 9:30 am Communion Service	19 8 am Men's Bible Study	20	21 5 pm K-6 Midweek Class 6 pm Midweek Advent Service 6:30 pm Handbell Practice 7 pm 7-8 gr Conf Class	22 9:30 am Women's Bible Study at Granite Ridge	23	24 6 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
25 9:30 am Christmas Day Service	26	27 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">St. Paul Lutheran Church delivers "Dinner at Your Door"</div>	28	29	30	31

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1050 10th Avenue
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Christmas Calendar

Sunday, December 4th
5 pm Christmas Potluck

Saturday, December 24th
6 pm Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, December 25th
9:30 am Christmas Day Service

The entire content is enclosed in a decorative border of red and green holly leaves and berries.