



The Monthly Herald

December 2023

Peace

There is a time for everything isn't there? And advent is one of my favorite times. Yes it is busy and crazy with the shopping, and the hustle and bustle. But I love Advent when it is silent and peaceful. When I am able to drive slowly through the neighborhoods and see all the decorations, while my Christmas music is playing on the radio. Everything seems still, and it lets me just breathe. It is even better when there is a gentle snow falling from the sky, although not a blizzard!

We do not get nearly enough peaceful moments do we? And we do need them! It is in these moments when we can think, process and unwind. Sometimes we need these moments alone, and sometimes we need them together. This year for advent our focus is on peace. Starting December 6th we will be having Advent meals, with a church service right afterwards and we pray you can join us! The 3 midweek service themes are; "Look up! The Star of Peace Draws Near" "Peace to All, Near and Far" and "Our Peace Rests on Him Alone". Those car rides and those silent nights can provide moments of peace, but only Christ can provide a permanent peace.

This world is so full of chaos, and strife. But Christ has come to give peace to all! His peace is permanent and it surpasses all understanding. It is permanent because it extends even beyond death. For indeed in Advent we do not just look back at his birth, but look forward to his second coming when he returns and brings us all to live with him forever. His peace surpasses all understanding because we can have it even when life is completely chaotic. Even when we are in a blizzard we can know that Christ is there present with us to give us peace. Christ always accomplishes what he means to, and so we can rest in this truth. So this Advent please come and join us and experience the peace that only Christ can give.

God's Peace to you ~ Pastor Josh





PEACE CAME TO EARTH

Peace is our common pursuit. As Advent leads us to Christmas, we are especially seeking a distinct season of peace. We need a quiet place to rest during this restless time. Year after year, with each Advent season, we wonder if this year will bring a peace that endures. We crave the reassurance that God knows all our needs and will provide for them, not just for these short weeks but for every season of life.

Often, we grow impatient as we seek peace. Despite knowing the promises of God to provide for us, we try to find peace on our own. We then define peace according to the ways *we seek it*. We might think that peace comes when we finally have enough of all the things we plan to buy. Or we might look for the perfect place where peace is an undisturbed solitude, the cabin beside a still lake. We might seek peace by escaping memories of the past. Or peace might be an elusive future where everyone does exactly what they should. These are our many ways of seeking peace, but sadly, each of these directions could go on and on without ever being fulfilled.

To illustrate both our pursuit of peace and God's plan for us, our Advent series this year uses a five-point star for each sermon. Each message will emphasize a different point of the star. Overall, the star reminds us of the Christmas star of Matthew 2 and that wonderful light that guided the Wise Men to find Jesus. Their long journey ended with the blessing of a lasting peace. Just as the Wise Men followed the star, so we will go to each point in this Advent star. This won't be a useless, unending journey. Instead, we will find that God meets us at each point of the star, knowing our needs and bringing us the peace we truly need.

God knows the many ways and directions by which we seek peace. As we journey, God meets us, halts our endless pursuits, and gives us a new understanding of His gift of peace. That peace comes always through the birth of Jesus, the Word become flesh who steps into the world and the only One who fulfills our desire for peace. In the end, we find our lasting peace and treasure. God's peace doesn't send us on an impossible search. God's peace is not an invisible needle buried in a haystack. God's peace is a treasure laid in the straw of the manger. God's peace is the priceless Son of God, born in the stable and laid in plain view for us all. He is the diamond found in the manger's straw. As the Prince of Peace, He is the only peace that we need and the peace we should seek.

MIDWEEK OF ADVENT 1 – December 6, 2023

Look Up! The Star of Peace Draws Near

MIDWEEK OF ADVENT 2 – December 13, 2023

Peace to All, Near and Far

(Our 3K, 4K and Kindergarten classes sing)

MIDWEEK OF ADVENT 3 – December 20, 2023

Our Peace Rests on Him Alone

Services @ 10am and 6pm each week; Advent Suppers at 4:45pm before the evening service

Peace

Special Holiday Worship Times

December 23 at 5:00pm – 4th Weekend in Advent

December 24 at 9:00am – 4th Weekend in Advent

~ Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship ~

December 24 at 3:00 & 5:00

11:00pm with Communion

Christmas Day Worship December 25 at 9:00am

First Weekend After Christmas

December 30 at 5:00pm

December 31 at 9:00am



New Years Eve Worship December 31 at 5:00pm

“Joy to the World, the Lord is come!”

LSB 387

**Advent By
Candlelight
December 3, 2023**





Bible Studies



Thursday Morning Bible Class

The prophet Zechariah is one of the most significant prophets in the “Book of the Twelve,” that last twelve books of the Old Testament. The historical context of this prophetic book is the return of the Israelites from Exile in Babylon. They came back to a nation in shambles. The temple was in ruins. God called them to forge onward in faith, knowing that He had a plan that extended beyond their own generation. There are several important prophecies of the coming Messiah, and important truths to learn from regarding the worship of our Lord. We spend time in prayer, the study of God’s Word, and there are always wonderful refreshments to be enjoyed. The class runs from 10:00-11:30am each Thursday. We have just begun to look at Zechariah, so it a great time to join the class!

Men’s Bible Breakfast

Christmas is coming!

What a joy to celebrate the birth of the very Son of God. So, for the month of December, we will be studying the Christmas account in two of the gospels:

December 9: Christmas in the Gospel of Luke

December 23: Christmas in the Gospel of John



Each Saturday a dozen or more men gather for a great time of fellowship, food, and study in the Word of God. We meet a little before 7am; 79th street doors are unlocked. We eat a wonderful breakfast cooked by one of the guys (Pastor Bender cooks on the 9th and Tim Odor on the 23rd). We eat, pray, and then study God’s Word. We end about 8:15-8:30am. All men are welcome and we love to see new faces - Join us!

Multi Generational Bible Study & Sunday School

In between the Sunday services at 8:00 and 10:30 we are having Sunday school- however this year we are mixing things up. After the 8:00 service we will meet as families in the gymnasium for an introduction to the lesson of the day, as well as sing some songs. Then we will split up into our age groups as we go through the Bible lesson of the day as well as other fun activities before meeting back in the gym for a recap. We are following the Faithweavers curriculum from Group publishing and will be going through the book of Genesis this Fall. We hope that you and your family will be able to join us as we dive into God’s word together! Contact Pastor Josh for further information.



Music Notes



Thank you to everyone who gave me such a warm welcome. Special thanks to those who have helped unload the truck, move my furniture around, and unpack my boxes. Many thanks to those who gave me gift cards, cash, and some very practical items. I am overwhelmed by your generosity and kindness. Thank you to those who kept the music program going in the absence of a DPM and who continue to help provide music. Thank you all for your patience—in my postponed arrival and as I get back into playing again.



As we all move forward on this journey together, I ask for your continued help to make the church's music program as good as possible. If you have musical talent, whether vocal or instrumental, let me know. We can use instrumentalists to play solos, duets, ensembles, or with choral pieces. Consider joining choir. The adult choir is open to everyone from 7th grade on up. You could also sing a solo, duet or trio. You might like to ring handbells. We have more bells than ringers right now, so we can find a place for you.

There are also ways to help even if you're not a musician. In the absence of a DPM, the bells haven't had a proper cleaning in a year. This requires a combination of gentleness, elbow grease, and patience. There are other occasional needs such as filing as well. Just let me know if you'd like to help!

Once again, thanks for your help and kindness. I look forward to serving Christ together with you.

Deaconess Carole



Big THANK YOU to Pastor Josh, the youth group members and all who came to rake the leaves on my lawn. Not a single leaf was left in my yard. You all did an outstanding job. See you next year!
God Bless!



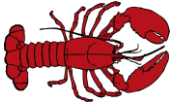
New Class

Adult Instruction Class

A twelve week course will be offered covering the central teachings of the Christian faith. This class is for those interested in membership as well as those who want to review these important teachings. The class will be held on Saturdays from 9:00 to 10:15am, beginning on Saturday, January 13. A signup sheet is found at the welcome center or you may contact the church office (414-541-6250) to register for the class. All materials will be provided.

Ladies Groups

Widows Lunch



All widows in the congregation are invited to lunch at Red Lobster (4645 S. 76th Street) on Wednesday December 13th at 11:00am.

Quilter's Patch

We are taking our annual December holiday break. We will meet again in January on the 15th and 29th.

Our group meets on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Mondays in the Fellowship Hall from 9:00am until 11:30am. You are invited to come join us....No sewing experience necessary.

If you have any questions regarding the quilting group, please contact Dawn Ziolecki at 414-841-6097 or via email at dzwolf2012@gmail.com



Ladies Guild



Reminder registration is due by January 19th for the Winter Getaway on February 2-3, 2024. Will be held at the Marriott West (W231N1600 Corporate Court. Waukesha). The speaker is Darcy Paape.

Our next business meeting is January 22nd, 2024 at 6:30 in the fellowship hall.

For additional information you can contact Dawn Ziolecki at cell, text, 414-841-6097 or dzwolf2012@gmail.com OR Toni Dunn at cell,

text, 414-335-3553 or tdunnusa@outlook.com

Emergency Pastoral Care: 217-779-7985 or 608-290-9837

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Subscribe to our channel! Watch our worship services and devotions! We will have worship services on-line for about 6 months and special services (Christmas, Easter etc) for 1 year.



<https://www.facebook.com/stpaulwa/> Access Facebook for church and school updates, video announcements, school chapels, and devotions!



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN
CHURCH & SCHOOL

Visit our Website! www.splcwa.org Support our ministry through online giving! Stay up-to-date on our activities!

Our weekend worship services are broadcast on TWO radio stations each Sunday at 8:00am. "JOY" 1340 AM and 98.7 FM

Board of Missional Community



Missional Community Christmas Caroling- Join us as we sing Christmas Carols throughout our neighborhood Sunday December 17th at 6:00. We are going to share the Gospel with our neighbors through the wonderful gift of song. We will have Hot Chocolate and other goodies provided!

January 26-28, 2024 ~ Rest & Recharge Christian Women's Retreat is BACK for year three! Faith in Jesus brings peace beyond our own comprehension (Philippians 4:7); peace we can depend on. It is our mission that you feel this peace at the retreat, continue accessing it well beyond our time together, and leave recharged in the purpose and possibility God gives. For more information contact Natalie Romano at natalieromano@bethelightcoaching.org or Heather Sanchez at thisonewildlifeco@gmail.com.

Advent Dinners



Served each Wednesday in Advent
at 4:45pm in the Fellowship Hall

December 6 – Beef Tacos, Rice, Beans, Nachos, Dessert

December 13 – Sloppy Joes, Chips, Fresh Veggies, Dessert

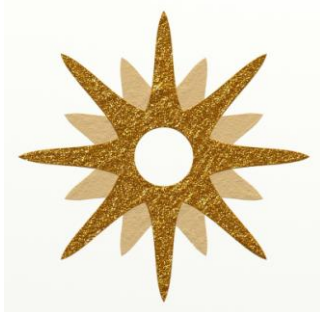
December 20 – Chili, Garlic Toast, Fresh Veggies, Dessert

Hotdog meals available for kids, along with coffee, milk and juice.

DECEMBER

Sharing God's Bounty

Overjoyed by the Star



In Matthew 2, we read about the Visit of the Magi. Following the star, inquiring at the king's palace, informed by the priests where to find the Child, they trudged with determination to Bethlehem, bringing with them the gifts they planned to present as they worshiped him. *“When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh”* (Matthew 2:10-11).

What did the Wise Men from the East know about this Baby or his family? Not much. Yet they came in faith, bringing gifts with them to honor him. How far did they travel? How long was their trip? We can surmise, but what's important to know is that, for them, the trip with all its drudgery was worth it. “They were overjoyed.”

How long a trip are we prepared to make this Christmas to worship the Christ Child? Are we willing to put up with inconvenience and sacrifice in order that we might come before him with our gifts, offering them in faith, as the Wise Men did?

What causes our joy this Christmas season? Is it seeing the eyes of little children light up when they open their presents? That's good. Is it finding exactly the right gift for someone special? That's good, too. But are we "overjoyed" when we see the star? Contrary to the messages we hear in the commercials and even the seasonal songs, the only thing Christmas is about is the birth of Jesus, the Savior of the world.

Along with doing all the wonderful things that are good to do at this time of the year, including the visiting of sick and the shut-in, the baking of goodies for food banks, the sharing of financial resources with those in need, and all the shopping and caroling and everything else, let's find our joy in seeing the star. That star points us to Jesus and leads us to the Cross. Let us “open our treasures” and worship him with our best and most precious gifts as the Wise Men did.

Perhaps the real significance of giving is what it does to the steward. What matters to God is not the gift, but the giver. Stewardship is God's invitation to a way of life. It helps us to overcome our selfishness and love of things. What we do with what we have been given is a sign to God and to the world of the depth and meaning of our commitment.



The counsel of the LORD stands forever,
the plans of His heart to all generations.
Psalm 33:11



Youth News



Christmas Party- December 17- All 6th-12th Grade Youth are welcome to come and join Pastor Josh in the fellowship hall for a Christmas party! There will be snacks, hot chocolate, as well as fun and games. The festivities will begin at 3:00 in the fellowship hall, and then we will go caroling at 6:00 in the neighborhood. If anyone wants to bring Christmas Cookies and snacks they will not be turned down! Contact Pastor Josh for further information.



Rest and Recharge Weekend- January 26-28 Camp LuWiSoMo is hosting a Rest and Recharge weekend for all middle and high school students. Pastor Josh would love to take our youth up for this fun get away weekend. The plan would be to leave St. Paul's that Friday evening, and return Sunday early afternoon. The cost is 170 dollars per person (talk to Pastor Josh if you need help with the finances, no student should be left behind due to money.) We are also looking for drivers depending on how many youth attend, so if you are able to drive let Pastor Josh know. In order to make sure we can get everyone registered with the camp, contact Pastor Josh by December 10th if your child is coming. Also Mom's - if you are able to send your children to this event, please take advantage of the Women's Rest and Recharge retreat that Heather Sanchez and Natalie Romano are hosting that same weekend!



***Save the Date: Sunday January 7th at Noon
Parent & Youth Houseboat Meeting. Lunch will be provided.
Plan to attend!!***

"A SINCERE THANK YOU to all members and families who filled boxes of food for the Thanksgiving food drive supporting our partnership with Capuchins Community Service providing food boxes for families in need this Thanksgiving! St. Paul's Church and School worked together to fill 98 boxes! This is a huge increase from previous years, and we are so grateful to have the love of Jesus shine through this generosity."





Sixth Annual Cookie Walk Fundraiser!



Saturday, December 9th, 9-11am (or until Sold Out!)

What is Cookie Walk?

Cookie Walk is a community outreach event and fundraiser for St. Paul's Lutheran School. Homemade cookies will be placed on tables throughout the gymnasium at the Lincoln campus. Purchasers will walk up and down the aisles, selecting the cookies they would like. Once they have made their selections, the cookies will be weighed and sold by the pound (\$10/lb).

In order for this event to be successful, we are requesting that each school family donate at least **4-dozen homemade cookies**. Please bake and donate your family's favorite Christmas cookies! **Please no chocolate chip cookies**. Over the last few years, the cookies that have sold best come from the once-per-year recipes that families get out at Christmas time. And if you love to bake and would like to donate more than 4 dozen, please do so! (Extra tins will be available at the ECC and Lincoln offices.)

A disposable tin will go home with each child on **Monday, December 4th**, and needs to be returned with cookies on **Friday, December 8th**. We are hoping that we will have a wide variety of cookies for people to choose from!

This event is open to the public. Please tell your family, friends, and neighbors!

How you can help: Bake cookies!

We also will need many volunteers on the day of the Cookie Walk. Here is the Sign-Up!:

[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094CACAE23A1F8C43-45929163-cookie/141018353#/
/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094CACAE23A1F8C43-45929163-cookie/141018353#/)

Thank you!

Any questions--please contact Natalie Schulte at natalie.schulte@splcwa.org

