



St. Paul's
Evangelical Lutheran Church



The Disciple's Connection

December 2020

Worship Services

Saturday 6:00pm

Sunday 9:30am

Sunday Bible Study

Adult 8:30am & 10:45am

Children 10:45am

Staff

Paul D. Sundbom, Pastor

Marlyss Sekki, Director of Music

Peggy McDonnell, Admin Assistant

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St. Paul's Preschool

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Advent Still Has a Place?

It's sad to see people jump right from Thanksgiving & the end of the church year immediately into Christmas.

Some radio stations have gone all Christmas music all the time already. Even Christian radio is guilty of skipping Advent. Z88.3 from Orlando, which I listen to online while at my desk, began playing Christmas music on their airwaves some days before Thanksgiving. But, this year, they have streaming options. You can stream the Christmas music they are playing over the air, or you can stream non-Christmas favorites. Can you guess which stream I'm listening to right now? Has Advent disappeared? No, Advent still serves a purpose in the life of the church. It is a preparatory season. It gets us ready in mind, body, & soul to celebrate Christmas & Jesus' birth, while at the same time reminding us, He will return. In our Lutheran worship, there are many wonderful hymns that aid our preparations in Advent. I want to share some of these wonderful words with you. Read them, look them up in the hymnal, sing them if you want to, and reflect on them this Advent.

*Savior of the nations, come, Virgin's Son, make here your home
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth*

*Not by human flesh and blood, By the Spirit of our God
Was the Word of God made flesh—Woman's offspring, pure and fresh
[LSB 332 "Savior Of The Nations, Come"]*

We must begin Advent with a humble, heartfelt invitation to the Christ child. Come, make this humble earth your home. It is not by the will or decision of man that the Word of God was made flesh. He was conceived of the Holy Spirit. Yet he was still the offspring of a woman, just as you and I are.

*Come, Thou long expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art
Dear desire of ev'ry nations, Joy of ev'ry longing heart*

*Born Thy people to deliver; Born a child and yet a king!
Born to reign in us forever, Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.*

ADVENT STILL HAS A PLACE? *continued*

*By Thine own eternal Spirit Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all-sufficient merit Raise us to Thy glorious throne*
[LSB 338 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"]

The Messiah was certainly long promised to the Israelites. It may have seemed to them like He would never come. But he did come to set people free, to reign in us forever, give the world hope. The irony of the Messiah is he was born as a simple, humble child yet he was also born a king who rules an eternal kingdom

*Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Behold the King of Glory waits.
The King of Kings is drawing near; The Savior of the world is here.
Life and salvation he doth bring; Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.
To God the Father raise Your joyful songs of praise.*
[LSB 341 "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"]

The Psalmist writes: "Lift up your heads, O You gates, be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of Glory may come in." May the King of Glory enter your heart as you prepare to celebrate His birth once again, as well as keep a watchful eye for His return.

In Christ

Pastor Sundborn



Week 1 (HOPE)

Candle name: **Prophet's Candle**
Remind us: **Jesus is coming**
• Advent is about faith and waiting.
What are you waiting on God for this year?

Week 2 (PEACE)

Candle name: **Bethlehem Candle**
Remind us: **To prepare the way of the Lord**
• Christ is the Prince of Peace. The world might not reflect it, but we can have peace in our hearts.

Week 3 (JOY)

Candle name: **Shepherd's Candle**
Remind us: **The Joy at the coming birth of Jesus**
• Joy is more substantial than happiness. It is deeper and in many ways, more subtle.

Week 4 (LOVE)

Candle name: **Angel's Candle**
Remind us: **God loves us enough to send His only Son**
• God is love. We've heard the phrase so much, but stop this week and really think about it. **God. Is. Love.**

Candle name: **Christ Candle**
Life of Christ that came into the world
(Light on Christmas Eve)



Joseph the Father

By Edward Naumann

There are no accidents in God's plan for our salvation. He planned and executed everything perfectly for the salvation of mankind. At just the right time, God sent His Son into the world, to be conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. God chose Mary for the special privilege of being the mother of His Son Jesus, and He chose Joseph for the special privilege of being Jesus' adoptive father.

It was not necessary for Jesus to have an earthly father. He could have been raised by Mary without the assistance of Joseph. Nevertheless, God chose that the events should take place as they did. And God always chooses the best way.

When God arranged for Joseph to become the adoptive father and guardian of our Lord, He put in place a beautiful symmetry for us to consider: **The Son of God became man, and the adopted son of a human father so that the sons of men might become adopted sons of His heavenly Father.**

In other words, God planned that Joseph should fully adopt our Lord Jesus and raise Him as his own son, so that we may have in Joseph an example of sonship by adoption, a demonstration of the manner by which God fully adopts as His own children those who believe in His Son.

The people in Nazareth who knew Jesus clearly identified Him as Joseph's son: "Isn't this the son of Joseph the carpenter?" they asked, when they heard Him reading and teaching in the synagogue. This detail is significant enough to appear in all four Gospels (Matt. 13:55; Mark 6:3; Luke 4:22; John 6:42). The people were amazed that the carpenter's son was able to read without a literary education (John 7:15), and that He could teach with authority beyond what they had ever heard before (Matt. 7:29).

It seems that by the time Jesus' ministry began, Joseph had passed away since he does not appear in the Gospels after Jesus' childhood. Clearly, however, Joseph raised Jesus as his own. Joseph was a righteous man who feared and trusted in God; he observed all the ceremonies of the law of Moses, he protected Jesus as his own son and took Mary and Jesus every year to Jerusalem for the Passover festival. No wonder everyone thought Jesus was his biological son (Luke 3:23).

But out of all the men of Israel who could have served as a custodian and father for Jesus, why did God choose Joseph? Most importantly, Joseph was a son, a descendant of the house of David, in fulfillment of the many messianic prophecies that the scepter would not depart from Judah (Gen. 49:10), that the Christ would be the son of David and that His throne would be established forever (2 Sam. 7:12–16).

*The Son of God
became man, and
the adopted son of
a human father so
that the sons of
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become adopted
sons of His
heavenly Father.*

JOSEPH THE FATHER continued

We find an additional possibility, however, in Matthew and Luke's genealogies. Luke writes that Joseph was the "son of Heli" (Luke 3:23), but Matthew says that "Jacob begat Joseph" (Matt. 1:15). Who, then, was Joseph's father: Jacob or Heli? The answer is, "Yes, both!" The oldest tradition reconciling these genealogies notes that the law of Moses (Deut. 25:5–6) required that, if a husband died without begetting a male heir, his brother had a duty to take his brother's widow as his wife. The first male she bore would become heir to the deceased brother's property.

The thought, therefore, is that Joseph was biologically the son of Jacob but legally the son of Heli, according to the inheritance law. Perhaps God chose Joseph because Joseph knew what it meant to have two fathers: One from whom he was descended and another from whom he drew his inheritance. If so, no wonder Joseph does not complain that Jesus, his adopted son, will be his heir. Joseph was heir to the property of someone who was not his biological father.

Many people might be disappointed to learn that Jesus' right to the throne of David and His claim to the scepter of the kingdom of Israel comes only through adoption because they consider the adopted son to have less of a legal claim than a natural born son. Some even think, contrary to the clear meaning of the words in the Gospels, that one of the genealogies is a genealogy of Mary, because at least Jesus is clearly her son. But we do not need to misunderstand the Gospels this way. Both genealogies belong to Joseph, and this is not a problem. Jesus is the full heir of the throne and kingdom of David because God's Word gives even to the adopted son the full inheritance that belongs to natural born sons.

Here is a cause for great rejoicing for Christians. God has purchased and redeemed us by the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and opened the way of salvation for everyone who believes, granting us the power to become children of God, "born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God" (John 1:13). And although this is a sonship of God by adoption, it comes with a full inheritance, declared legal and binding by the Word of God.

You have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs — heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

(Rom. 8:15–17)

Just as our Lord was established to be the full heir to the throne of David by Joseph's adoption, so we who believe become full heirs to the Kingdom of Heaven by adoption of our heavenly Father. Thanks be to God for His decree that, to all His adopted sons, He gives the full inheritance of His everlasting Kingdom.



Life Quotes for December

December 6 "This Christmas, let us continue to pray for mothers who are afraid and aren't sure where to turn when they discover they are unexpectedly pregnant. Let us pray that, like Mary, they may find the courage to bring life into the world." *Right to Life of Michigan – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life* • www.lutheransforlife.org

December 13 "Will you be without loved ones this holiday season? Will you be struggling with illness or discouragement? Will you feel the pressure to make the holiday season great? You are not alone. You are not on your own. Read John 10, a great chapter about a Good Shepherd. Listen to His voice comfort and strengthen you." *Rev. John Boeder, Martin Luther College – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life* • www.lutheransforlife.org

December 20 "As we look forward to Christmas dinner and the celebration of our Savior's birth, let us remember that Christ's coming into the world began with an unexpected pregnancy. Mary of Nazareth was unmarried and certainly had reason to be confused and afraid when she was asked to carry the Son of God. But she courageously let God's plan unfold for her and her Child and brought our Savior into this world, despite her uncertain circumstances." *Right to Life of Michigan – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life* • www.lutheransforlife.org

December 27 "The slaughter of the innocents continues in our time ... done not out of anger, but because the arrival of these little ones is deemed inconvenient or too expensive or sometimes simply because they are not the 'right' sex. We, like Rachel, weep over our lost children. But mourning their loss does not mean that we do not fight to end this assault on the sanctity of life. The holy birth of our Savior Jesus Christ, which has transformed the world for the good in so many ways, gives us hope that abortion, too, can be ended." *Steven Mosher, Population Research Institute – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life* • www.lutheransforlife.org

Announcements

Advent Services Cancelled

Due to Covid-19 Wednesday evening Advent services will not be held this year.



Adopt-a-Family



This year, St. Paul's Sunday School will be adopting families from UH who are in need for Christmas. We would like to ask the congregation to help us with donations for this project. Information about the families and their wish lists are posted on the board at the back of the sanctuary. Just select a star and purchase the item. If you would rather give cash for an item some one will purchase the item for you. Gift cards are also welcome. Please return all donations by Sunday, December 13.

St. Paul's Giving Tree

As the weather turns colder and the snow begins to fly, St. Paul's is collecting hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves for adults and children! Please consider bringing in your donations for the Giving Tree! We will be collecting these items through January 3, 2021. Donations will be sent to Christ Child Clothing Cottage, The Hope Chest, Salvation Army and Sub Zero Mission! Drop off items in the large box next to the tree in the back of the sanctuary. Thank you for helping!



Christmas Cards!!!



There are still Christmas card sets available for purchase. Each set is individually priced and are located on the wood table next to the LWML table. Don't forget to support the other greeting cards in the rack. There are Birthday, Anniversary, Get Well, Sympathy, Blank Inside and many others to purchasing for friends or family members who are having a special event. Each individual card is only 50 cents a piece. All proceeds will go toward building an Outreach budget for future Outreach event expenses. Please place your payment in an offering envelope supplied on the greeting card rack and add it in the Offering plate during church service.





2021 LWML Convention

Give and Receive! We are reaching the midway point and remain persistent in the race to Lexington, Kentucky, and the 39th Biennial LWML Convention of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, June 24-27, 2021. December is a month for giving. Pray for God's blessings on the 2021 LWML Convention Host

Committee as they have been giving their time and talents in the planning for this convention. Then prayerfully consider giving of your time and talents as a runner/worker at the convention. A Call for Workers! Volunteer Application Form can be found at the LWML Indiana District website, www.lwmlindiana.org. Complete and return the form before February 1, 2021, so committee chairmen and directors know where you would like to serve. Men, family members, friends, and teens, are also welcome to volunteer. All volunteers will need to complete the Call for Workers form. Volunteers will receive a discount on their registration fee for serving a minimum of eight hours. As a volunteer, you will receive the rewards/blessings of serving as together we are "Running the Race ... Looking to Jesus." Be sure to also go to www.lwmlindiana.org and download the order form for the LWML Convention Logo Polo Shirt and place the order before March 1, 2021. You can help promote the convention by wearing the convention logo shirt.

LWML ... A New Way to Donate

Our LWML Ohio District website, <http://lwmlohio.org>, now has a donate button. Through Vanco you are able to make a one-time or an ongoing donation. Vanco is a faith-based trusted provider of online giving and donations. It is used by many churches in our district.



When you click on the "Donate" tab, a new page will open. You will have the option to create an account or continue as a guest. Follow the directions to make a donation. Please be sure to list your Zone and Church name for record keeping purposes. If you are making an honorarium/memorial donation, that can be included as well. Our Financial Secretary, Janet Pauley, will receive your donation information from Vanco, so your church or zone will be credited. She will also have a record that a honorarium/memorial was received.

You can feel safe donating online. As part of its comprehensive security and privacy safeguards, Vanco only collects the pertinent information required to perform your payment transactions. And, that information is stored in Vanco's secure system and only used when needed to fulfill your requests and services.

It is hopeful that you will find this feature useful as you continue to support the mission work of the LWML Ohio District.



November Meeting Notes

1. Pastor's Report: Pastor reported we will have Thanksgiving Eve worship with Communion on Nov. 25 at 7pm, and that there will be no Midweek Advent services. Christmas Eve services TBD with Elders. He is making phone calls to members.
2. President's Report: Communication Committee met and discussed areas we're doing well and areas needing more. Reports for Semi-annual meeting need to in to office by Nov. 8.
3. Vice-President's Report: Jeff Salminen will again do the snowplowing this winter.
4. Treasurer's Report: Finances still in good financial shape with donations up and slightly lower than expected expenses so far.
5. Education Report: Average Sunday school attendance: 5 in K-7, 6 in 8-12, 9 in 8:30 Adult, and 11 in 10:45 Adult classes; 5 in confirmation. Adopt-a-Family will provide gifts to Project Hope and UH families in need.
6. Preschool Report: Charlene Sullivan has donated small fridge for snack juices. The Popcorn fundraiser totaled \$3170 with profit about \$900. Kim Bernando worked with Johanna while Roxanne was on vacation. Still looking for an assistant teacher Monday and Wednesday mornings.
7. Elder's Report: Elders working with Pastor on his scheduling and calls. Will determine times for Christmas Eve services, probably 5 & 7:30.
8. Stewardship Report: 19 Time & Talent surveys has been returned Giving Tree Clothing donations will be Christ Child Clothing Cottage, Hope Chest and Salvation Army. Will also check with Sub-Zero (adult only).
9. Financial Secretary report: New sign up sheet for next year will be posted.
10. Outreach Report: So far, \$297 has been collected for Jail Ministry(75 Bibles). 4 teams have volunteered to distribute door tags, hope to cover Bowhall Rd. south from Dorthea Dr. to Madison Ave. and the side streets.
11. Buildings & Grounds: Still waiting for fridge to arrive. Batteries replaced in thermostats and filters in furnaces, set clocks back to EST. In future, LEDs will replace old ballasts and bulbs as needed. Pole out front still to be replaced-wooden cross has been rebuilt and installed.
12. Membership Secretary Report: We have received \$146,904 YTD up 1.6% from last year.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES *continued*

Old Business:

1. Committee to review Disaster response guidelines haven't met yet.
2. Security lock bar to be installed soon.

New Business:

1. Semi-annual meeting will be Nov. 15 after 9:30 service and reports to office by 11/8.
2. Snow Removal: John made motion to accept Jeff Salminen's bid to snowplow the parking lot @ \$700/month. Kristi 2nd. Motion passed.
3. Communication committee met and discussed current programs: greeters, emails, bulletins, website, etc. Considering ways to improve including a digital info screen.
4. Discussion on looking into a youth group member attending Council meeting in a non-voting role. Will bring up during semi-annual meeting.

Next Meeting: Dec. 2, 2020 @6:30pm.

Look at the Candy Cane
What do you see?
Stripes that are red
Like the blood shed for me
White is for my Savior
Who's sinless and pure!



"J" is for Jesus My
Lord, that's for sure!
Turn it around
And a staff you will see
Jesus my shepherd
Was born for Me!



December Birthdays

Kathy Murphy	2nd	Stacy Franz	10th	Noel Benoit	21st
Daniel Greig	3rd	Marlyss Sekki	13th	Jacob Chaffe	21st
Diana Kiel	5th	Kathy Emrich	20th	Russ Walton	24th
Dale Kerver	7th				



December Anniversaries

Jay and Laura Harris	29 years on December 7th
Matthew and Madeline West	6 years on December 28th



Altar Flowers



Is there a special someone, date, or event you would like to celebrate, honor or remember. A great way to do that is with Altar Flowers. The Altar Flower Chart is posted on the wall next to the double doors leading out of the sanctuary. All you have to do is sign up next to the appropriate weekend. Be sure to print clearly what occasion is being honored and who the flowers are given by. Altar flowers are \$30.00. This can be placed in an envelope labeled "Altar Flowers" and the date of the weekend, then place in the collection plate.

Those Who Serve: December 2020

ELDERS:

6:00 P	Saturday	John Doeing
9:30 A	Sunday	Craig McConnell & Rich Szoradi

LECTORS:

12-05-20	6:00 P	Saturday	Frank McVan
12-06-20	9:30 A	Sunday	Kathleen Pennell
12-12-20	6:00 P	Saturday	Pastor Sundbom
12-13-20	9:30 A	Sunday	Jack Lelle
12-19-20	6:00 P	Saturday	Frank McVan
12-20-20	9:30 A	Sunday	Eric West
12-24-20	5:00 P	Christmas Eve	TBD
12-24-20	7:30 P	Christmas Eve	TBD
12-26-20	6:00 P	Saturday	Pastor Sundbom
12-27-20	9:30 A	Sunday	Dale Kerver

For
Unto
us
a
CHILD
is born
Unto us a Son
is given, and the
Government shall be
Upon His shoulders,
and His Name shall be called,
Wonderful, Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace!
Isaiah 9:6

COUNTERS:

Jenn Drake, Debbi Davis, Laurie Srebernak

GREETERS:

6:00 P	Saturday
9:30 A	Sunday

SIGN UP IN DECEMBER TO WAVE
YOUR GREETING TO YOUR FELLOW
DISCIPLES.

Sign-up sheet located on the double
doors at the back of the Sanctuary



December 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>Office Hours Monday-Friday 9:00am-2:00pm</div> <div>December Stone: Turquoise & Blue Topaz</div>	<div>Bulletin Announcements Due Wednesdays</div> <div>December Flower: Narcissus & Holly</div>	1 Choir Practice 7:00pm	2 Council Meeting 6:30pm	3 Virtual Bible Study 7:00pm	4 International Cookie Day	5
6 2nd Sunday of Advent	7 Pear Harbor Remembrance	8 Choir Practice 7:00pm	9	10 Virtual Bible Study 7:00pm	11	12 
13  3rd Sunday of Advent Confirmation Class 4:30pm Youth Group 6:00pm	14	15 Choir Practice 7:00pm	16	17 Virtual Bible Study 7:00pm	18  January Newsletter Articles Due	19
20 4th Sunday of Advent	21 Outreach Meeting 7:00pm Start of Winter (Winter Solstice)	22 Choir Practice 7:00pm	23	24  CHRISTMAS EVE Worship Services 5:00pm & 7:30pm	25  <i>Christmas Day</i>	26 
27 	28	29	30	31 	<div>  COMMUNION SERVICE </div> <div> WORSHIP SCHEDULE Saturdays - 6:00pm Sundays - 9:30am Sunday School - 10:45am Adult Bible Study - 8:30am & 10:45am </div>	