

St. Paul Lutheran Church and School A Monthly News Edition

The Masthead

Equip, Support, Serve, Witness Where God Calls Us!

St. Paul Lutheren Church

Church Office: 248-541-0613 & School Office: 248-546-6555

DECEMBER 2024



REV. JAKOB ANDRZEJEWSKI

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DECEMBER SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

Dec 4, 11, 18	Mid-Week Advent Worship
Dec 13	School Christmas Shoppe

Dec 15 Informational Voters Meeting

Dec 24 Christmas Eve Family Worship Candlelight Worship

Dec 25 Christmas Day Worship



FAQ's and Facts

Welcome back to this Christmas edition of FAQs and Facts!
If you missed our previous episode (October edition), we discussed animals in heaven, dinosaurs, and ghosts. Stay tuned to find out what questions we'll ask next!

FAQ 1: How long did it take Mary and Joseph to get to Bethlehem?

You've probably seen this picture before and maybe this is what you imagine. Do you have any idea how long and tiresome that journey was? All we know is this from Lk: Joseph went up from Galilee to be registered with Mary who was with child. Here's what amazing: that journey is about 90 miles. One way. 4 days of walking. At least a 2.5 mph pace for roughly 8 hours a day. Moms- if you were pregnant, how would waddling for eight hours sound like? But they did. And she went. Because that's what it took to get him there.

FAQ 2: In what kind of place was Jesus born?

People answer in at least 3 different ways: in a cave, in a 1st century barn, or in a house. (fun fact: this picture was taken at a church in Bethlehem called the Church of the Nativity where it's believed to be the precise location of Jesus' birth). This is what Luke says, **laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.** Mangers, if you didn't know, are feeding troughs for animals. And in the 1st century, people who owned animals would take them into their house overnight, keep them on the first floor where in the corner of the room would be their feeding troughs, their manger. It's more than likely that David had family in his hometown and stayed down their on the first floor because their was no more room in the Bethlehem Motel 6. And so they went- because that's what it took to get him there.

FAQ 3: What animals were really there?

In the nativity scene, what animals do you picture? Many would say an ox, a lamb, or a donkey. That imagery, that scene, is real. True. Only because of what Isaiah 1:3, where it says **The ox knows its owner, and the donkey its master's crib**, (the word crib in the Hebrew means manger). So Mary and Joseph slept with the donkeys that night because that's what it took to get him there.

Whatever you do, ask the questions. Imagine the scenes. Enjoy the narratives. We are blessed beyond measure to have the one thing that we know happened: Jesus Christ born to us! Merry Christmas!

MINISTRY

COME WORSHIP WITH US-DECEMBER

December 1 Church Decorating 12:00ish

December 4 Midweek Advent 1 Worship 7:00 p.m. (LHNW Choir)

December 7 Advent by Candlelight

December 11 Midweek Advent 2 Worship 7:00 p.m.

December 18 Midweek Advent 3 Worship 7:00 p.m. (School Program)

December 24 Christmas Eve Worship 5:00 p.m. (Family Song Service)

Christmas Eve Worship 11:00 p.m. (Candlelight Service)

December 25 Christmas Day Worship 10:00 a.m.

December 20 School Christmas Break begins at Noon—school resumes Jan 6, 2025
*The church office holiday hours: Closed Dec26-Jan3

GIVING TREE is planted in the narthex this Christmas season again. Help a child that is less fortunate. All donations welcome!

Hats, gloves, mittens, and a scarf; help to shape the GIVING TREE bark,
A tree that may in winter wear; clothing so the skin not bare.

Donate to WLCFSA, a child you will truly bless!

CHRISTMAS CARD TREE will be located in the lobby outside the office for you to place your Christmas cards on that you would normally send to fellow friends of St. Paul. Why not save a stamp and wish them Merry Christmas by placing your card on the tree.

ABOUT OUR BIBLE CLASSES

Adult Information Class Pastor Andrzejewski will lead this class twice a year, Spring and Fall. While this class is used for anyone interested in becoming a member of St. Paul Lutheran by confirmation, you are under no obligation to join if you just want to learn about our Lutheran church. Members are welcome to come as well for a refresher course. Please contact the church office at 248-541-0613 for further information.

Pastor's Bible Class — Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m. in the church lounge. Based on various books of the Bible.

Wednesday Morning Bible Class is at 10:00 a.m. in the church lounge. This class is lead by Pastor. On the 3rd Wednesday there is communion in the sanctuary and a potluck luncheon in the lounge, following class. Monday Women's Bible Study – We meet from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in the church lounge on Monday mornings. We begin with devotions and break into our studies. Call Lee Anne Millinger (248-417-9526) for more information about this women's group.

Young Adults — This is a group of post-college age to 30 something young adults who gather together for Bible studies, potluck dinners and various outings. If you want to enjoy some great Christian fellowship this group is for you. To find out more contact our church office, 248-541-0613.

Men's Opportunities — All men of the congregation are invited for Bible studies, devotions and Christian fellowship. Two opportunities: Thursday mornings at The Avenue Restaurant for breakfast & Biblical talks at 8:00 a.m. and, the 3rd Saturday morning at 7:30 a.m. in the church lounge for breakfast and usually a Lutheran Hour Ministry Biblical study.



BIBLE VERSE'S

OF THE MONTH

CHURCH YEAR — SERIES 'C' BEGINS



Date	Festival	First Reading Psalm New		w Testament	Gospel	
ADVENT 2024	Dec. 1	First S. in Advent	Jer. 33:14-16	Psalm 25:1-10	1 Thess. 3:9-13	Luke 19:28-40 or Luke 21:25-36
	Dec. 8	Second S. in Advent	Mal. 3:1-7b	Psalm 66:1-12	Phil. 1:2-11	Luke 3:1-14 (15- 20)
	Dec. 15	Third S. in Advent	Zeph. 3:14-20	Psalm 85	Phil. 4:4-7	Luke 7:18-28 (29-35)
	Dec. 22	Fourth S. in Advent	Micah 5:2-5a	Psalm 80:1-7	Heb. 10:5-10	Luke 1:39-45 (46-56)
	Dec. 24 Eve	The Nativity of Our Lord (Christmas Eve)	Is. 7:10-14	Psalm 110:1-4	1 John 4:7-16	Matt. 1:18-25
CHRISTMAS 2024	Dec. 24 Eve	The Nativity of Our Lord (Christmas Eve)	Is. 9:2-7	Psalm 96	Titus 2:11-14	Luke 2:1-14 (15- 20)
	Dec. 25 Day or	The Nativity of Our Lord	Is. 62:10-12	Psalm 98	Titus 3:4-7	Luke 2:(1-14) 15-20
	Dec. 25 Day	The Nativity of Our Lord (Christmas Day)	Is. 52:7-10	Psalm 2	Heb. 1:1-6 (7- 12)	John 1:1-14 (15- 18)
	Dec. 29	First S. a. Christ- mas	Ex. 13:1-3a, 11- 15	Psalm 111	Col. 3:12-17	Luke 2:22-40

Young Adults is a group of post-college age to 30 something who gather together to fellowship We would like to reach out to new church attendees who don't know we have a group. The basic information is that we have a group chat for communication of events that are happening, and we do trivia on most Wednesdays at the Side Bar in Royal Oak. Please join us. Also, **Atwater 20s** and **30s Group-** Bible Study on the Book of Romans. We meet on most 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 7:15 pm at Atwater Brewery, Detroit. This is a group from Historic Trinity. All are welcome.

For more information or if you are interested in being part of the Young Adults group, you may get in touch with Kyria Gowman at K19gow@gmail.com.



School's Christmas Shoppe

On December 13, the students of St. Paul School will have an opportunity to do all their Christmas shopping for mom, dad, sister, brother, grandma and grandpa

and friends, to buy handmade gifts for \$1-5 or gentle used items. This is an affordable and fun way for the students to get quality gifts for everyone on their list. Please bring in anything you would like to donate. This includes crafts, goods, treats, gift-wrapping paper, gift wrapping boxes and labels! Julie Hansen (248) 778-7246, julie@bahansen.us or Ann Sagan 248-224-0968 or Meredith Sanislo 248-766-9189. Thank you.

Informational
VOTER'S MEETING
Sunday, December 15
Between Services

MINISTRY

Advent Devotion Books



Advent Season—Lutheran Hour Ministries seasonal devotion booklets are available for you and your family to use during the Advent season, or give one to a neighbor or friend and invite them to worship with us this holiday season. The books are available for pick up in the church lobby with the holiday

worship schedule on the inside cover. Advent season begins the first Sunday on December 1. We have Wednesday Midweek Advent services at 7:00 p.m. Which begins December 4.



Be a Christmas Card Evangelist Send Christmas cards that proclaim the joy of God's plan of salvation. Most people leave their Christmas cards out for several weeks, so they will have a daily reminder of God's love and the true meaning of Christmas.

Thank you to everyone who donated food stuff from the ingathering on Thanksgiving eve for the food pantry and to those who came and helped put food items away on Friday. Blessings

Mom Small Group—"Keeping Your Kids on God's Side" Join us Tuesday, Dec. 17th at 8pm in the church lounge as we go through Part 2 of "Keeping Your Kids on God's Side" by Natasha Crain. Please note: books will need to be purchased. All moms—new, seasoned, or expecting—are welcome! For questions, contact Krista Zenk (989-245-2052) or Amanda Brandt (313-319-4341). We look forward to seeing you! Thank you.

Book Nook—You can choose beautiful cards with Scripture for your friends & family for only 50 cents each for all occasions throughout the year. DYI sales: choose your items, cards or gifts from cabinet, pay cash or check to *Women's Guild*, deposit payment into the cash box attached to the brick wall next to the card rack. We have *Christmas* cards.



Lutheran Witness Magazine A Lutheran Christian monthly subscription magazine which runs from March 2025 to February 2026. This magazine provides LCMS lay-peoples stories, info on congregational life, foster personal growth in faith and help interpret the contemporary world from a Christian perspective. Printed, published and distributed by Concordia Publishing House, the publishing arm of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS). *Annual* cost \$21.20 & Deadline to order, Decem**ber 15th**, after the date you are responsible to order your own online at CPH. Contact the church office to continue or order a new subscription. Make checks payable to St. Paul Lutheran Church and write in the memo line Lutheran Witness. leave in the church office. Thank you.

<u>KIDS KORNER</u>



CHRISTMAS BLESSING'S

Can you work your way through the Christmas bauble to get to the present?



SCHOOL MINISTRY



Chris Francik -Principal

St. Paul Lutheran School

100+ Years of God's Grace

Our Mission "Equip, Support, Serve, Witness Where God Calls Us!"

Our Statement of Purpose

St. Paul Lutheran School equips children for a life of service with a foundation of academic, physical, spiritual, and social maturity centered around Christ Jesus.





Come On In



On a Friday a few weeks ago, our principal, Mr. Francik, brought a "tour" to the 1st and 2nd Grade classroom, a mother with her first grade son, looking at our school. The boy did not have a good year in kindergarten at his last school. The mother is trying home schooling this year, but here she was, with her son, on a Friday, looking at a new school- at St. Paul.

The mom talked to Mr. Francik as they walked into our classroom and looked around. The boy stayed in the hall. The mom asked him to come in. He shook his head "no." She cautioned that he wouldn't come in. She pointed out the logs, the Legos, the puppets. As Mr. Francik and the mom talked, I introduced myself to the boy. My class looked on, hoping to see who I was talking to. I introduced myself, assuring him, and suggesting that he might as well look at what his mom was talking about.

He slowly walked into the room. I introduced the group. Our students couldn't stay seated as they told their names and excitedly told him something about our school day. They told him about the archeological dig we had just been on and gently led him to look at the artifacts we found. As their hands patted his shoulders, they

took him to see our calendar and the baskets of things we use for math. They opened books they are enjoying reading and the binders where we keep our collections of words. They held out pretty stones and feathers and leaves for him to see. He asked about places on the globe and they spun it around to find them for him. They pushed little treasures into his hands to take as a memento. Most importantly, the entire time, they surrounded him with love.

Our children saw a boy who was afraid and shy, and, knowing that Jesus is a friend to children, knowing that Jesus is their friend, they surrounded this child with friendship and love.

What a blessing it is that we have a school where our children learn the love of Jesus, and knowing that, willingly, naturally, show that love to others.

Do you know a child that needs to know the love of Jesus? Your teachers at St. Paul are honored to partner with you in training that child in mind and spirit. And our students? They can't wait to surround him and bring him into our St. Paul Family, into God's family, for life.

Merry Christmas From the Staff of St. Paul Lutheran

<u>Viking News</u> Every Friday, we send home our school newspaper – *The Viking*. We send it home with the children and also by email. If you would like to receive the Viking by email, please make sure the school office has your email address. You may send it to bmackinder@stpaulroyaloak.org.

YEARLY FUNDRAISER

Little Caesars Pizza Bar Codes We continue to collect these bar codes found on the pizza boxes. If the school collects enough, they can have a pizza party on special days. Please bring these into the church or school.. At church please leave in white box in coat room. Thank you

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Dec 3 School-Chili Fundraiser
Dec 8 School Christmas Shoppe
Dec 6, 13, 20 Midweek Advent Worship
Dec 15 Movie/Book Nite-Polar Express
Dec 21 Shields Pizza Fundraiser

Dec 22 Half Day of School

(Christmas break begins, Dec 22-Jan 5

Jan 8, 2025 School Resumes

DIRECTORY & NOTES

Directory

Pastor Jakob Andrzejewski

(cell) 734-644-0059 revjski@stpaulroyaloak.org

Church Office School Office 248-541-0613 248-546-6555

Church Fax School Fax 248-541-6965 248-546-8096

Church E-Mail:

church@stpaulroyaloak.org

School E-Mail:

school@stpaulroyaloak.org

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/stpaulroyaloak

Website:

www.stpaulroyaloak.org

(Please contact Steven Carpenter at *scarpenter@stpaulroyaloak.org* to request a communication, print publication or new web project for the website. Submit your news, story, recap, event, or photo and it'll be considered for publication.)

Staff:

Greg PaulChris Francik248-765-0316502-381-3643Music MinisterSchool Principal

Pam Rodway Julie Hansen 248-541-0613 248-546-6555

Church Admin, Assist, School Admin, Assist,

Kayla Kokko

586-879-9843

Business Manager

<u>Prayers</u>

Prayers for our Homebound

Donna Brewer
Margaret Kuhlmann
Irma Pope
Charlette Schroeder
Don Storck

Don Storck
Jeanette Till
Don Whitbeck

Prayers for Military

Mark Bowdich
Paul Bowdich
Trevor Guilmette
Brandon Newton
Brendan Sharp
Hayden Sharp
Tirzah VanDamme
Jason Zuniga

Gabrielle Zuniga

<u>Gifts Given</u>

GIFTS—Donate to the church by giving a memorial or honorarium by using the card located in the lobby. This is a two part card, one to go with the gift to the church and the other to be mailed to the family. Contact the church office, 248-541-0613 for any questions

Official Acts

BAPTISMS

DATE

Allan Wesley (adult) 11/

Member Changes

Transferred Out

Craig Rinkus (1) St. Paul Ann Arbor

Transferred In

By Confirmation: Allan Wesley By Profession of Faith:

Bronson Gavin

Andrew Haselton Jesus & Hope, Nelva Miramontes

Bryan Pingel

By Transfer:

Robert & Lisa Kokko

Nicole Kowalski

Kirt Fickel, Naomi Hutcheson, &

Avishanna Mattingly

Kevin & Elizabeth, Aryx & Jerich Lopez

MCRRY CHRISTMAS FROM STAFF OF ST. PAUL



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

If we've missed listing your birthday, please contact the church office 248-541-0613

1	Steven Snell	12	Barbara VanWyck	28	Kyle Lefere
2	Lyra Bowdich	13	Tony Valdes		Maureen Walsh John Williams
II.	•		•		Debra Wilson
4	Elizabeth Harris	14	Hunter Gustafson		Carsyn Young
	Ayanna Henry		Anna Lisa Zeile		
	Tiffany Jackson			29	Philip Johnson
	Sally Wright	15	Jessica Ebmeyer	0.0	D :1 D 1
I -	Doubson Croft		Mason Keller	30	David Dowhan
5	Parker Craft		Anna Lowe		Ella Guilmette
	Lynne Gardner		Andrew MacKenzie Scott Manteuffel		David Koziara
	Kelly Hill Leo Osentoski		Brittany Patterson	31	Pose Pomrov
	Isabelle Robbins		Dillarly Fallerson	31	Rose Pomroy Joan Thiem
	Elizabeth Simpson	16	Brandon Gutowski		Joan Inicin
	Enzapour om poor	.0	Meghan Lehman		
6	Sam Francik		9		
	Bryan Harris	17	Brynn Cunningham		
	Stanley, II Harris		Lacey Lefere		
	Anya McNeal		-		
	Pamela Rodway	18	Victoria Blackwell		
	Megan Schultz				
II	Nigel Smith	19	Jayden Andrzejewski		
II -	Cambia Dumuall		Sandy Gostiaux		
7	Sophia Burwell Imani Jackson		Keith Hodgson David Rossi		
	Daryl Nykiel		David Rossi		
	Mariah Olsen	20	Johanna Anand		
	Robelle Sawyers	20	Kurt Ulrich		
	resolic carryons		rtart omen		
8	Ashley Bloom	21	Alicia Mitchell		
	Mia Brandt		Patrick Petersen		
	Matthew Witmer		Marcus Schroeder		
9	Goshua Thiem	22	Daniel Pyykkonen		
40	0	00			
10	Stephanie Erickson	23	Myles Harris		
II	Eli Mitchell	24	Taylor Ciylor		
11	Colette Kehr	24	Taylor Fixler		
' '	Jennifer Taylor	25	Suzanne Francik		
	Jon Wilson	20	Cazarino i farioni		

26

Marjorie Cook









Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8:15 AM Worship c 9:45 AM Bible Cl 11:00 AM Worship Church Christmas Decorating (follows late service) Vestry Input (between services) 1st Sunday in Advent	9:00 AM Trustees 9:00 AM WBC 7:00 PM Elders Mtg Day School YCC	3:00 PM MLT (staff mtg) Day School YCC	4 8:30 AM Chapel 10:00 AM Bble Class 6:00 PM Advent Potluck Dinner 7:00 PM Advent Mid-week Worship I (Lessons & Carols-LHNW)	8:00 AM Men's Breakfast-The Avenue 11:00 AM-1:00 PM Drive-thru Community Food Pantry 7:00 PM Bell & School Choir Concert (downtown RO w/ Holiday Magic, farmers mrkt) Day School YCC	Set-up Advent by Candlelight	7 11:00 AM Advent by Candlelight
8:15 AM Worsh ip 9:45 AM Bible Cl 11:00 AM Worsh ip c	9:00 AM Trustees 9:00 AM WBC Day School YCC	7:00 PM Vestry Mtg 7:15 PM YA (Atwater) Day School YCC	8:30 AM Chapel 10:00 AM Bible Class Advent Mid-week I Worship	8:00 AM Men's Breakfast-The Avenue 7:00 PM Choir 8:30 PM Bells Day School YCC	School Christmas Shoppe, gym	14
8:15 AM Worship c 9:45 AM Bible Cl 11:00 AM Worship Informational Voter's Meeting (between services)	9:00 AM Trustees 9:00 AM WBC Day School YCC	17 Day School YCC	8:30 AM Chapel 10:00 AM Bible Class 7:00 PM Advent Mid-week III Worship Children's Program	8:00 AM Men's Breakfast-The Avenue Day School YCC	20 12:00 PM School Dismissal	7:30 AM Men's Breakfast, lounge
8:15 AM Worsh ip 9:45 AM Bible Cl 11:00 AM Worsh ip c	9:00 AM Trustees	24 5:00 PM Family Worship 11:00 PM c Candlelight Worship CHRISTMAS EVE	25 10:00 AM Christmas Day Worship c CHRISTMAS DAY Christmas Break	26	27	28
8:15 AM Worship c 9:45 AM Bible Cl 11:00 AM Worship c	9:00 AM Trustees Christma	31 New Years Eve s Break	3 4 10 1 17 1	Nov 2024 1 T W T F S 1 2 5 6 7 8 9 1 12 13 14 15 16 8 19 20 21 22 23 5 26 27 28 29 30	Jan 2025 S M T W T F 1 2 3 5 6 7 8 9 10 12 13 14 15 16 17 19 20 21 22 23 24 26 27 28 29 30 31	4 0 11 7 18 4 25