



# Merry Christmas

Dear St. Paul's,

I hope you find this month's herald informative of what is happening at your church this month. Ministry is sharing in one another's person and opening our lives up to each other. This is especially important to stay connected in the midst of a pandemic! When we share life together we demonstrate love for each other, the same way Jesus shows love for us. This very concept led me to a passage written by Paul the Apostle.

Paul writes this to the church in Philippi:

*"Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross." Philippians 2:4-8*

Jesus enters into the world as a real person to enter into our mess and ministers to us and identifies with us in every way, except He is completely sinless. I would encourage you to find a person in our church, your neighborhood, or your workplace and connect with them, just as Christ connected himself to us and entered into our world. Jesus comes to us so that we would participate in His ministry to others, by taking on his image as a servant. This is a great honor, not only to receive Jesus ourselves, but to also be transformed into His likeness and carry out his work in ministering to others. I pray that the Holy Spirit leads you to opportunities to share in the work of ministry and that He gives you joy in the journey.

May God bless you richly this December!

Your Fellow Servant,  
Pastor Noah Kegley



2	Generations United in Mission
3	Christmas Worship Times
4	Bible Studies
5	Ladies Groups
6	Social Media Page
7	Music Notes
8	School Notes
9	Groundwork Guatemala
10	Stewardship
11	December Calendar

# **Commitment Weekend**

**December 5 and 6**



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

We recently held our Initial Commitment events for Generations United in Mission. Those that were unable to attend were mailed Commitment Cards.

These dear brothers and sisters in Christ gathered and returned their commitment cards because they have a vision for the Lord's work here at St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School. They believe that with the continued financial support of this ministry, St. Paul's will be able to reach out and touch the lives of many.

With this vision in mind, and after prayerful consideration, so far, 24 individuals and couples have made commitments of \$343,055 over the next three years. We give thanks to God for these sacrificial gifts.

On the weekend of Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> the rest of the congregation will be invited to make their 3 year commitments to Generations United in Mission. Every gift is important, no matter how small of large it may be. All of us, committing ourselves to Christ for the work of His kingdom, is what is important.

As you decide on your commitment, prayerfully consider how the Lord has blessed you "immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine."

Thank you,

Gary Knight – Co-Director "Generations United in Mission"



# Opportunities to Worship This Advent & Christmas Season

Midweek Advent Services December 2 at 10:00am & 6:00pm

Midweek Advent Services December 9 at 10:00am & 6:00pm

Midweek Advent Services December 16 at 10:00am & 6:00pm

## Christmas Eve

We will be holding 4 Christmas Eve services this year so we can adhere to the COVID-19 social distancing and mask mandates. **Reservations will be needed** ahead of time, so we can assign you your seat/seats. Please call the church office at 414-541-6250 or Email [Mary@splcwa.org](mailto:Mary@splcwa.org) and let us know which service you would like to attend.

**Service Times: 3:00, 5:00, 7:00 & 11:00pm**

## Christmas Day

9:00am

December 26 at 5:00pm

December 27 at 8:00 & 10:30am



## New Years Eve

6:00pm

# Bible Studies

## Men's Bible Breakfast – The Book of Zechariah

We continue our journey through the Book of Zechariah. We normally meet on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month. However, with Christmas being on a Friday, we will not meet on the 26<sup>th</sup> of December. We meet shortly before 7am. We eat, pray, and then study God's Word. All men are welcome to join us.



## Sunday Morning Adult Bible Class – Every One His Witness

### 9:15am in the Fellowship Hall

During the month of December, we will finish up the “Every One His Witness” series. This Bible study series encourages us all to be witnesses to Jesus. This involves intentional relationship building with the view of sharing in natural and informal ways the faith that is so dear to our hearts. After the first of the year, we will begin a new Bible study on the Book of Romans. This would be an excellent opportunity to join up with the class and grow in your faith. The apostle Peter concludes his second epistle with these words: “Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.” (2 Peter 3:18)

## Thursday Morning Bible Class – Denominational Differences

### 10:00am in the Fellowship Hall

During the month of December, we will finish up the study on Denominational Differences. We will look at Baptist, Assembly of God, and even a couple of “Non-Christian” bodies that claim to be Christian. We will discuss what truly unites Christendom and what divides, and conclude with looking at differences among the LCMS, WELS, and ELCA.

## Group Discipleship Hour is Back!



- - **When? Every Sunday! @ 9:15**
  - **Where? Gymnasium (please wear a mask)**
  - **Come join for a time of friendship, learning, and community!**
- 



## Widows Lunch



All widows of the congregation are invited to Honey Butter Café 7221 S. 76<sup>th</sup> Street on Wednesday December 9<sup>th</sup> immediately after our 10:00am Advent Worship service. Please contact Judy Hurst (414-543-5839) if you would like to attend.



## Quilter's Patch

Last year we created five fabric kits from the extra fabric that we had. A kit contains two 3-yard pieces of fabric and two spools of thread. The kit is given to an individual to help them learn a useful, marketable skill. In September, our fabric kits went to Zambia. Zambia is a Southern-Central African landlocked country. It is located nearly midway between the Equator and the Tropic of Capricorn in the Southern Hemisphere. Longitudinally, it is located in the Eastern Hemisphere of the world.



I am totally blessed with the group of ladies that are involved in the quilting group. They worked and continue to work at home on quilts. Some come to the fellowship hall on Mondays for socializing and to also work on quilts. They completed the 40+ quilts currently on the shelves. They were my source of support to stay involved with sewing after my mom's passing. God has truly blessed me and our church with these wonderful women and their mission to make quilts for LWR.

Quilting dates for December and January are at 9:00 am in the fellowship hall.

December – OFF

January 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>

Have a blessed Christmas and New Year !

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

## Ladies Guild

Thank you to all who have been bringing items for our mitten basket. There is still yarn in the mail room. We will accept socks, mittens, gloves and scarves. The Mite box will be in the narthex the first weekend of every month. This money is sent to LWML for their mission projects. It is also a small way to thank God for his blessings.



## FROM THE ELDERS:

On Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> after the 10:30 service, there will be a small gathering with communion for anyone interested.



## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLTK\\_vX6NR9S0VJuxmk0PpA?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLTK_vX6NR9S0VJuxmk0PpA?view_as=subscriber)

Subscribe to our channel! Watch our worship services and devotions!



<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](http://www.splcwa.org)

Support our ministry through online giving! Stay up-to-date on our activities!



## Music Notes

What Child is THIS? WHAT child is this? What CHILD is this? What Child IS this?

Have you ever thought about how the emphasis on a word changes the meaning?

What child is THIS? - Whose child is it? Why is He here?..Maybe more of a negative spin.

WHAT child is this? - What? A child? A bother.....

What child IS this? He is here now. But why? Who is He?

What CHILD is this? - Why a baby? Why then?



"This, this, is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing. Hail, hail to bring Him laud, the babe the Son of Mary." - end of verse one

Jesus came for us. He is our Lord, King, Emmanuel, Savior, Redeemer.... much more than what we could imagine.

Come and join in worshipping Him!

### Ongoing Opportunities for YOU to come join in praising the Lord through music

**\*Praise Team** - Our group leads worship during Sept - May on the 2nd & 4th Sundays at 10:30 AM; Summer - selected Wednesdays

**We NEED:** Bass player, guitarists, singers

**\*Evening Bell Choir** - Our group meets on Thursday evenings 6:10 PM -Sept - May. We play for worship services throughout the months we practice. If you are able to count, tap your toes, we can help you learn how to ring a bell at the right time in the music. Come out and give it a try. Contact Michelle if you would like to join us!

**\*St. Paul's Choir** - If you enjoy singing in a group, contact Michelle. Please watch the bulletins, emails and newsletters for start up dates.

Contact: michelle@splcwa.org or (text) 414-552-4938 or call: 414-541-6250 ext 3013



The Lutheran Women's Missionary League box will be in the narthex each weekend. Take a small box and put coins or bills in it. This money is used by LWML to support their grants which go to different agencies in the world. These are selected at their conventions. This is a small way to thank God for his blessings.

Ruth Miller

## School News

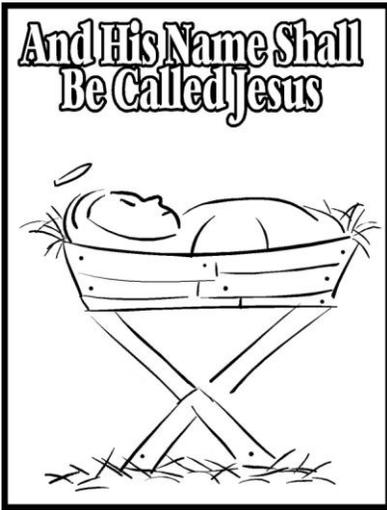


### His Name Is Jesus

Matthew 1:25 “*And he called His name, Jesus.*”

Joseph has always fascinated me. Joseph was willing to tank his reputation. He was willing to swap by all accounts his flawless reputation, for a pregnant fiancée and what was rumored to be an illegitimate son and made the big decision of discipleship. He placed God’s plan ahead of his own.

Rather than worrying about making a name for himself, he went about making a home for Christ. And because he did, a great reward came his way. Joseph, “called His name Jesus.”



If you were to line up the millions of people who have spoken the name of Jesus, and then look at the person selected to stand at the front of the line, who would you see? Joseph. Of all the saints, sinners, prodigals, principals, and preachers who have spoken that name since then, Joseph, a blue-collar, small-town construction worker got to say it first. He cradled the wrinkled-faced Prince of Heaven in his calloused hands and with an audience of angels and pigs, he whispered, “*Jesus. . . you’ll be called Jesus.*”

Do you see what happened? Joseph set aside his own plans for life and willingly accepted the task that God called him to do. Are you willing to do the same in your life? Sometimes that involves risk and discomfort. One of my favorite sayings is this: “*A ship in the harbor is safe, but that’s not what ships are built for.*”

Principal Jack Burkee

# MERRY CHRISTMAS

## Groundwork Guatemala

A huge **“THANK YOU”** to all of you who generously supported the tuition collection for our congregation-sponsored students, Cristino and Santos. We successfully raised the \$1400 needed for their 2021 tuition! The new school year begins in January; now that you have supported them with your money, please continue to support them in your prayers.

This remains a challenging time for the Groundwork Guatemala mission due to the Covid pandemic and restrictions on travel and gatherings. Team visits, like ours from St. Paul’s, are still cancelled. Our hosts, Ginny and Kevin Holmes, have been stuck in Arizona since March, and their return to Guatemala remains uncertain. The local Guatemalan missionaries are doing their best to get food and medicines to needy people, but transportation challenges within Guatemala remain. Please keep the mission, Ginny, Kevin, and the local missionaries in your prayers, that their important work may continue.

Also remember the Guatemalan people in your prayers, that they have access to medical care and food during the pandemic. And, in addition to the Covid problems, the northern highlands of Guatemala have been ravaged by the hurricanes that have come through the Caribbean, along with associated flooding. Landslides have destroyed many homes, farms, and even entire villages. More prayers, please!



### **The Gift**

As we unwrap Christmas gifts from loved ones,  
remember, the wonderful gift from our heavenly  
Father – Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.  
The greatest gift of all!

Elaine Lemke

# 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.*

---

Today I am reaching out to the generous hearts of St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School. Would you be willing to send out cards of comfort/support to a 17 year old girl who just lost her mother to cancer? I am looking for as many cards from as many people/places as possible. Here is the name and address...

Marianna McEwan  
P.O. Box 27106  
Milwaukee, WI. 53227

Mariana is the granddaughter of my co-worker and friend Nancy. I filled out a prayer request for this recently. God has put an end to her suffering and called her home.

Here is an opportunity to show a young grieving girl the love and support that only Christ can offer. May God bless all those who are willing and able to participate. ~ Carol Glass

# December 2020

## Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<p><i>1</i></p> <p>6:00 PM Board of Christian Education</p>	<p><i>2</i></p> <p>10:00 AM Advent Worship</p> <p>6:00 PM Advent Worship</p>	<p><i>3</i></p> <p>10:00 AM Bible Class</p> <p>6:00 PM Finance</p> <p>6:10 PM Bells</p> <p>6:30 PM Public School Confirmation</p>	<p><i>4</i></p>	<p><i>5</i></p> <p>5:00 PM Worship</p>
<p><i>6</i></p> <p>8:00 AM Worship</p> <p>9:15 AM Bible Class and Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 AM Worship</p>	<p><i>7</i></p>	<p><i>8</i></p> <p>6:00 PM Council</p>	<p><i>9</i></p> <p>10:00 AM Advent Worship</p> <p>11:00 AM Widows Lunch</p> <p>6:00 PM Advent Worship</p> <p>7:00 PM Praise Band</p>	<p><i>10</i></p> <p>10:00 AM Bible Class</p> <p>6:10 PM Bells</p> <p>6:30 PM Public School Confirmation</p>	<p><i>11</i></p>	<p><i>12</i></p> <p>7:00 AM Mens Bible Breakfast</p> <p>5:00 PM Worship</p>
<p><i>13</i></p> <p>8:00 AM Worship</p> <p>9:15 AM Bible Class and Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 AM Worship</p>	<p><i>14</i></p>	<p><i>15</i></p> <p>6:30 PM Divine Connections</p>	<p><i>16</i></p> <p>10:00 AM Advent Worship</p> <p>6:00 PM Advent Worship</p>	<p><i>17</i></p> <p>10:00 AM Bible Class</p> <p>6:10 PM Bells</p> <p>6:30 PM Public School Confirmation</p>	<p><i>18</i></p>	<p><i>19</i></p> <p>5:00 PM Worship</p>
<p><i>20</i></p> <p>8:00 AM Worship</p> <p>9:15 AM Bible Class and Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 AM Worship</p>	<p><i>21</i></p>	<p><i>22</i></p> <p>6:30 PM Elders</p>	<p><i>23</i></p> <p>7:00 PM Praise Band</p>	<p><i>24</i></p> <p>Christmas Eve Worship 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 11:00pm</p>	<p><i>25</i></p> <p>Christmas Worship 9:00am</p>	<p><i>26</i></p> <p>5:00 PM Worship</p>
<p><i>27</i></p> <p>8:00 AM Worship</p> <p>9:15 AM Bible Class and Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 AM Worship</p>	<p><i>28</i></p>	<p><i>29</i></p>	<p><i>30</i></p>	<p><i>31</i></p> <p>New Years Eve Worship 6:00pm</p>		

Printed by Calendar Creator for Windows on 11/20/2020

# HAPPY NEW YEAR