

# THE Wonder OF CHRISTMAS

Dear fellow believers,

We have entered the season of Advent. It's all about **Preparation** . . . about **Hope** . . . and **great Expectation**. It's about the One who came just over 2,000 years ago! The One who comes to us again and again in His Word! The Word made flesh who is to come again! Jesus, the beloved and only Son of God, the Father! Advent is a special time of the church year.

The world wants to make Christmas a secular holiday. The world and the evil one want to rob us of what Christmas is really all about. Sadly, the world is doing a pretty good job in the minds of many people in our nation. The pandemic has taken its toll as well. So it is time to remember, to look again, to prepare in Spirit and Truth . . . that we might take Jesus into our hearts anew.

Yes, we need to take back Christmas, at least in our own hearts. This *is done* by sharing the real meaning of Christmas with all you meet. Share Jesus with those at the store, love your neighbors wherever they are . . . and wish them a “blessed Christmas.” You could be so bold to say, “I hope you know the real gift of Christmas is Jesus.”

At Christmas, God declares to the world: “This is My Son!” There were other sons born in the history of holy Scripture. There was Cain . . . who murdered his brother. There was Ishmael, born of Sarah’s handmaiden Hagar, as Sarah and Abraham plotted how to make God’s promise come true. There was Absalom, the rebellious son of King David. Then there was the other son of Adam, son of Abraham, son of David, son of the living God: Jesus!!

So, come to *prepare* and gather with fellow believers in *hope and expectation*. Come to church often in Advent. Gather with other members to have a time of fellowship before the evening service. Worship at our special midweek services; this year the theme is “This is My Son,” looking at all those sons mentioned above . . . and the most important Son, Jesus.

What else can you do? Invite others to join you in worship. Bake cookies or deliver them to shut-ins. Grab the Advent calendar with activities prepared by the Board of Missional Community. Pray that many people will be filled with the joy, the peace, and the hope that only Jesus can bring. For He really is the reason for the season!

In Christ’s Love,

*Pastor Bender*

**The Monthly Herald**



**2022**

# This is My Son!

## An Advent Series – 2022

“Every disappointment involves unmet expectations.” Often young couples struggle in marriages as expectations aren’t met, especially when a husband or wife lets their spouse down. Marriage is not the only source of disappointment and unmet expectations. Every human relationship will deal with these issues. Have you been happy with every decision an elected official has made, even one for whom you voted? Does your boss ever let you down? Have your employees always done their job well? Do your friends always come through for you? Do your children always make good and wise decisions based on what you have taught them?

Human beings will disappoint by failing to meet expectations. No wonder the psalmist tells us in Psalm 146:3-4, “Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation. When his breath departs, he returns to the earth; on that very day his plans perish.”



Parents have hopes and expectations for their children. Sometimes these are healthy expectations. Other times parents place unfair or unrealistic expectations on their children. This upcoming Advent season, during our midweek services, we will take a look at three different sons of men who were disappointments to their fathers.



Week 1 – November 30: Cain, the son of Adam – the first murderer in history

Week 2 – December 7: Ishmael, the son of Abraham – not the child of promise

Week 3 – December 14: Absalom, the son of David – heartbreakingly rebellious son

Yet each week, we will also be pointed to a different Son. This Son is the true Son of Adam. He is the true Son of Abraham. He is the true Son of David. He is the Son who never disappointed His Father. He is the Son who never did any wrong. He is the Son of whom the Father spoke: “This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him” (Matthew 17:5).

This true Man, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, is also the Son of God, the very Son of God now living in our flesh and blood. This Son is Jesus, the Christ, the Messiah, who fulfills the hope of salvation “that we might receive adoption as sons” (Galatians 4:5). During this series, entitled “This Is My Son,” you will hear again that your heavenly Father is not disappointed in you. Rather, through Jesus, He considers you to be His beloved child, with whom He is well pleased.



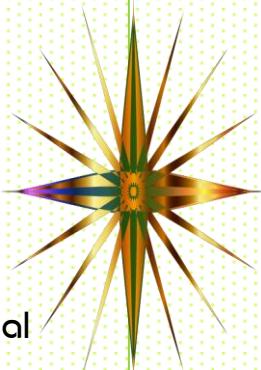
# Come Again to Advent

The pandemic really took a toll on our midweek attendance at special seasons of the year, like Advent and Lent. Please consider coming again to our midweek Advent services. We have special themes for our services this year:

November 30 – "This is My Son – Cain"

December 7 – "This is My Son – Ishmael"

December 14 – "This is My Son – Absalom"



On December 14, we will have a special treat of some special music sung by some of our St. Paul's students.

Services are at 10am and 6pm each of those days. A wonderful meal is prepared before the evening services which starts at 4:45pm. Below is a list of the menu for those meals.

Come out to worship. Come out and invite a friend to join you. Come and prepare for the coming of Christmas and the true meaning of the celebration, with our God saying, "This is My Son – Jesus."

Advent Dinners served in the Fellowship Hall at 4:45pm

November 30: Sloppy Joes

December 7: Chili with Toppings

December 14: Baked Spaghetti

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Christmas Eve – December 24 at 3:00, 5:00 & 11:00pm

Christmas Day – December 25 at 9:00am

New Years Eve – December 31 at 5:00pm

New Years Day – January 1 at 9:00am



## **Christmas Cookies for our Homebound Members**

Since all great events need a sequel, the shut-in's cookie delivery is returning! But like all second times around, we are shaking things up a bit. We will be looking for bakers, drivers, and donators...what does that mean you ask? We are looking for cookie bakers (4 dozen per person), delivery drivers (praying for 12 or more pick up weekend of the 3rd delivery at your own pace) and individuals to donate money to buy cookies from the Cookie Walk. During the weekend of November 26th after the services there will be signup sheets and a donation box in the Narthex.

If you have any questions or want to get a jump start on volunteering, please email Melissa at [dgraf15@wi.rr.com](mailto:dgraf15@wi.rr.com) or text her at 262-219-0350.

Thank you very much for your support!



# Bible Studies



## Men's Bible Breakfast

Men's Bible Breakfast meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays of each month shortly before 7:00am. We talk a little football, we talk a little bit about life, and share with each other. We also share a good breakfast cooked by one of the guys. Then we study the Scriptures.

*In December we will only gather on the 10<sup>th</sup>.* All men are welcome to come. The 79<sup>th</sup> street doors are open. Come and bring a friend!

## Sunday Morning Adult Bible Class – The Book of Psalms

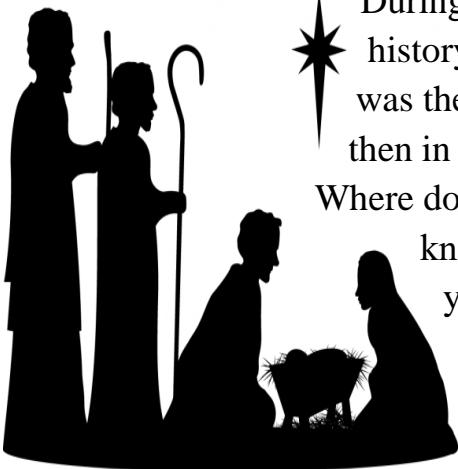
Luther said that the Book of Psalms is like a little Bible. It is filled with so many important teachings. There are prophetic psalms, praise psalms, teaching psalms, psalms of lament and hope and joy in the Lord. There are also those imprecatory psalms, asking for God's vengeance against enemies.



For the next several months, we will be studying many different psalms. In the month of December, we will be looking at Psalm 2 and Psalm 139. The book of psalms will bless your heart, for the truths found in the Psalms also reflect the heart and soul of the faithful believer in the One True God and the worship life we share together.

**We meet at 9:15a.m.** on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall. It's a great time to study God's Word, grow in faith, and become a more devoted follower of Christ. Join with brothers and sisters in Christ to grow in knowing the Lord and His Word.

## Thursday Morning Bible Class: The Worship and the Glory of God



During the month of December, we will continue looking at the Biblical history of the worship of God and the glory of God. The glory of God was there in the wilderness wanderings, in the temple in Jerusalem, and then in the New Testament the glory of God came again to a new temple. Where does the Glory of God dwell in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Come and grow in knowing God's Word, in basking in His glory and salvation, that you might worship Him in Spirit and Truth. We meet Thursdays at 10:00am; there is always some wonderful treats and great fellowship among God's people. Come and join us!

## Ladies Groups

### Widows Lunch



All widows in the congregation are invited to lunch at Red Lobster on 76<sup>th</sup> Street on Wednesday December 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am. Merry Christmas!!!

### Quilter's Patch

It is hard to believe that Christmas and the New Year are just around the corner. The quilters will not be meeting during December but will be back in January.

Have a blessed Christmas and joyous New Year.

Don't forget you are always welcomed to visit us on a 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, or 5<sup>th</sup> Monday in the fellowship hall. We are there 9am until 11:30am.

Quilting dates for January are

December – Off for the holidays  
January - 2nd, 16th and 30th



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** The Mitten Barrel is in the narthex for your donations.



### Attention Fellowship Hall Kitchen Users

Changes are coming to the kitchen!



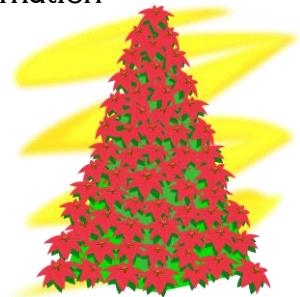
During the month of January, work will be taking place in the kitchen to replace the sinks and cabinets on the South wall. Please avoid using this area during the month of January as the remodeling takes place and there will be no sinks available.

Thank you – Jack Burkee

## Board of Missional Community

**January 27-29, 2023** ~ *Rest & Recharge 2023* is a women's Retreat that focuses on rest from daily pressure and reconnecting to your identity in Christ. For more information contact Natalie Romano at [natalieromano@bethelightcoaching.org](mailto:natalieromano@bethelightcoaching.org) or Heather Sanchez at [thisonewildlifeco@gmail.com](mailto:thisonewildlifeco@gmail.com)

**Missional Community Christmas Caroling-** Join us as we sing Christmas Carols throughout our neighborhood Sunday December 11<sup>th</sup> 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!



### 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! 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](http://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*



There's no better way to ring in the season than with the Milwaukee Handbell Ensemble! Enthralling audiences for two decades, this unique group has performed with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, Bel Canto Chorus, Midwest Vocal Express, and across the United States. Under the direction of Kaethe Grabenhofer, MHE plays music from many genres on six octaves of Schulmerich handbells and hand chimes, along with other instruments. Join them for an evening of Christmas carols and holiday favorites!

**Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7:00 p.m. at Mt. Zion Lutheran Church- 3820 W. Layton Ave. in Greenfield**



# Sharing God's Bounty

## New Year Resolutions

In chapter 4, beginning with verse 13, James talks about our planning. He reminds us that our lives and plans and futures are in God's hands, and that we should pray, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that" (verse 15). With that preface, then, we can begin to do some self-evaluation of how we can best spend our time, abilities, and resources. A new year can provide a new resolve and commitment to do many things in a new and better way. We may find that our priorities are a little skewed. Our lifestyles could possibly use some redirection, and a New Year's resolution based on God's plan for us could be what we need.

How can we make our resolutions a reality? One way is to talk with one of the members of the church staff or the chairperson of one of our boards and volunteer our time, energy, and abilities. Another commitment may be to spend more time reading God's Word and join a Bible Study group to stimulate spiritual growth. We may find that God is leading us to increase our knowledge and commitment in the area of our financial stewardship as well. God has blessed us so we may be a blessing to others.

The Apostle Paul tells us, "work out your salvation with fear and trembling, because, he adds, "it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose." (Philippians 2:12-13). To the faithful, God has made known his will and purpose which is "to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ (Ephesians 1:10). God wants us to have a relationship with Jesus as the head. The personal relationship Jesus develops with us compels us to serve and honor him through our faithful stewardship. Faith enables us to understand that we "are God's workmanship created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do" (Ephesians 2:10). May it be our resolve and commitment to do what we were "created to do" as God's workmanship.

In looking to the coming year, remember that rooted deeply and firmly within scripture and our Christian tradition is the vision that we are expected to be faithful stewards of all we are and all we have. This can be done by making the best use of our talents, the time allotted to each of us, and the monies we possess. Stewardship must be seen as a life-long attitude and ever-deepening commitment.



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





Words cannot express the love, generosity, and support Noah and our family has received from our St. Paul's family.

We are grateful for each and every one of you and thank you all from the bottom of our hearts. Thank you for keeping us in your prayers and thoughts during this difficult journey. We have seen God moving and doing miracles through Noah's diagnosis. As of now, Noah is in remission and is preparing for transplant scheduled for January 6th. We still have a way to go on our journey but every day, the light is getting brighter and we are praying for the day when he will be home with his family. Thank you again for everything and may God bless each and everyone of you and your families.

Love, The Segura Family. (Frank, Lisa, Noah, Joseph, and Audrey)

## Youth News



### Senior High School Activities

**Youth Group-** December 18<sup>th</sup>. Stay tuned on what activities we will be doing on this date, we are working on getting into some Nursing Homes to sing Carols to the elderly. If this is not able to happen we will be having our normal open gym times with 6-8<sup>th</sup> grade at 5, and 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30.

### Open Gyms



Every third Sunday of the Month we will have the gym open to all of our Middle and High School Students!

Middle School Kids are from 5:00 – 6:15pm and High School Kids from 6:30 – 8:00pm.

Pastor Josh has some fun activities planned for the kids, as well as some great devotions. If you have any questions please contact Pastor Josh.



# Happy New Year 2023

Hello All!

My name is Josiah Hahn and I am the 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher here at St. Paul's. This year, the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class has an awesome opportunity to go on a field trip to St. Louis! We are excited for this opportunity, but are currently working on the logistics of paying for this trip. With that being said, we are excited to offer you an opportunity to support us and eat some tasty treats! After each church service, there will be a table in the narthex where we will be selling bundtlets from *Nothing Bundt Cakes*. If you would like to order 1 or more, they will be delivered to you after your selected church service the following week. Each bundtlet has a selling price of \$6. Hopefully, we can help meet all of your sweet tooth needs!

In Christ,

Josiah Hahn



Dear St. Paul's Congregation,

I am a student working with CUW (Concordia University Wisconsin) administration to organize a large FMSC (Feed My Starving Children) event. The goal is to pack enough meals to feed 1,000 children for one year.

The event will be on April 20th-22nd, 2023. We need to raise \$100,000 so every bit counts. Here's the donation page: <https://give.fmsc.org/campaign/2304-045sc-mequon-wi-1000-children-for-a-year/c427656>

We aren't ready for volunteers yet, that will come in a few months. If you have any questions, please contact me, Isaiah Mudge, at: isaiah.mudge@cuw.edu



## Fifth Annual Cookie Walk Fundraiser!



**After a 2-year COVID hiatus, Cookie Walk is back!  
Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 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! 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, November 28<sup>th</sup>**, and needs to be returned with cookies on **Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>**. 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/20f054ca5a823a75-5thannual>

Thank you!

Any questions--please contact Erin Carson at [erin.carson@gmail.com](mailto:erin.carson@gmail.com) :)



# Idaho Trip

This summer our youth group will be taking a trip to Shoshone Mountain Retreat in Wallace Idaho! While there the camp will take us on service projects throughout the city, aiding those who live there. We will also be going through team building exercises, and enjoying some free time in the beautiful state of Idaho. Registration cost will be 272 dollars, plus money for hotel and travel. We will be leaving June 30<sup>th</sup> and arriving back in West Allis on July 8<sup>th</sup>. If interested please contact with Pastor Josh by January 22<sup>nd</sup> in order to register! Hope you can make it!

