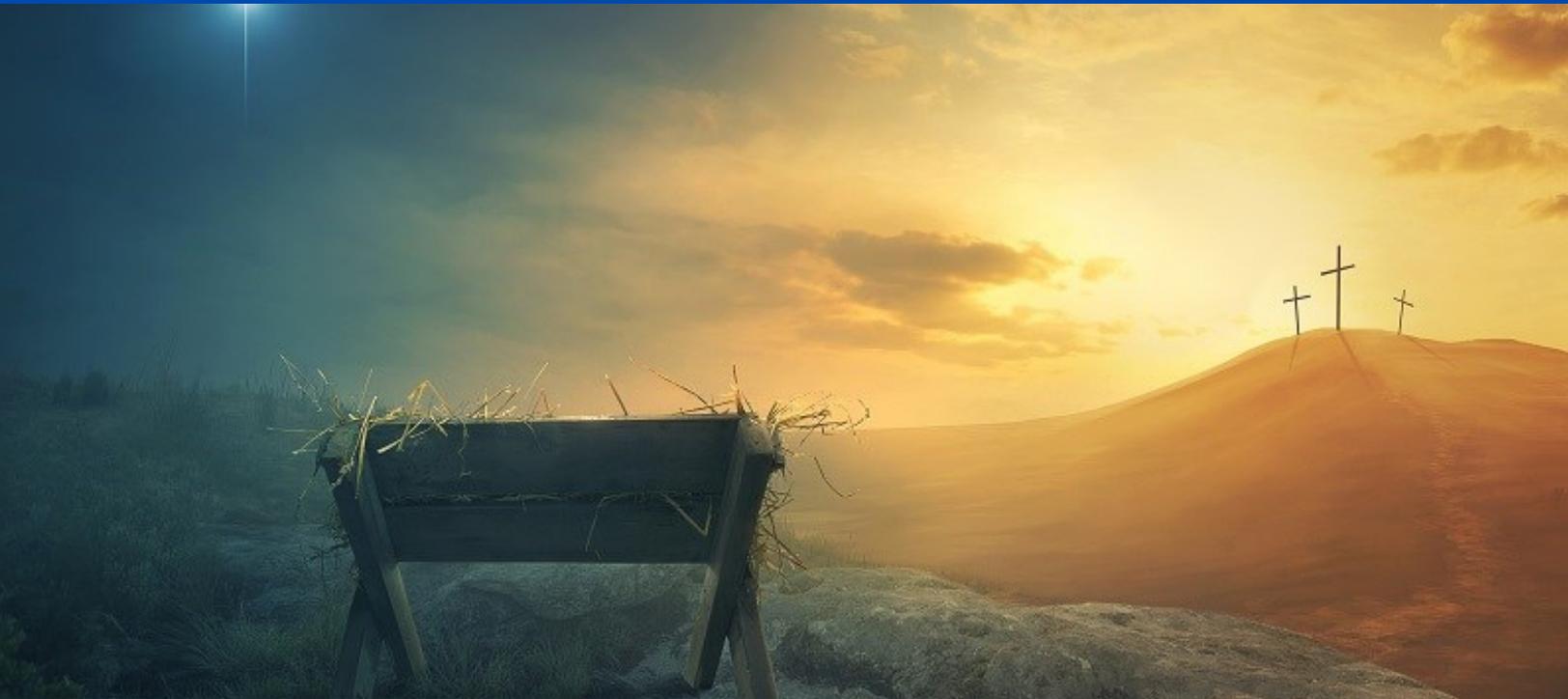


THE LUTHERAN



Thanksgiving & Hope, Faith and Joy

BY REV. ALBERT COLLVER

As we approach the holiday season, we as God's people and the congregation of Saint Paul's in Troy, IL, have much to be thankful for. The Lord has given us all that we have — our life, our family, our Church and School. We are thankful for the life he has given us in Christ Jesus. Despite the many challenges this past year, the Lord has been good to us. For this, we give him thanks. Christians, historically, have been known as joyful and thankful people. We have optimism and hope for the future because of what our Lord God has done for us and we know that he is in control of all things and intends all things for our good. For the past several weeks, we have been focusing on the theme of Rejoice, Pray, and Give Thanks. This theme comes from 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, "Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." This theme dovetails into our Advent theme: Hope, Faith, Joy and Peace..

Advent is the beginning of the church year. Followed by Christmas and Epiphany, when the Wise Men visit Jesus. Next, we have Lent, Easter, and the Ascension. Each of these, mark a period of Jesus' earthly ministry covering his birth, death, resurrection and ascension into heaven. Pentecost marks the life of the church. With the celebration of the Last Sunday of the Church year on November 22, we begin a new year! Happy New Year! At least, Happy New Church Year, which begins with Advent.

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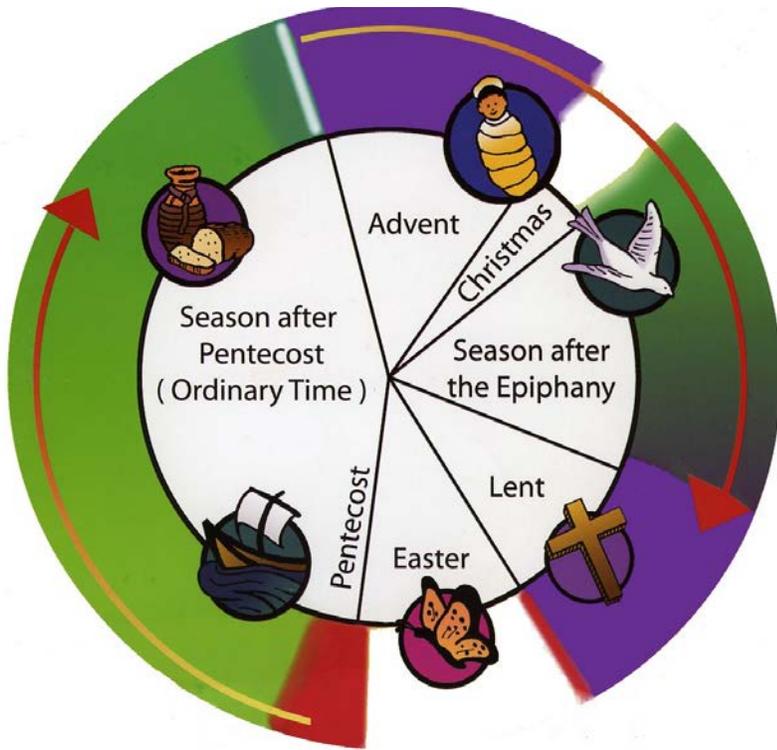
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OUR MISSION

" Born anew in Jesus Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit in the Gospel, Saint Paul's Lutheran Congregation learns, lives and shares the living Gospel of Jesus Christ."

The word Advent comes from the Latin word *adventus*, which means "coming" or "arrival." This word also is a translation for the Greek word *parousia*, which usually refers to the Second Coming of Jesus. This word is used twenty-four times in the New Testament, seventeen times are about Christ's return in glory. Last Sunday in the Last Sunday of the Church Year, we read 1 Corinthians 15:23, "But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ." This is a reference to Christ's return and our resurrection from the dead. The Season of Advent continues with the theme of "coming" or "arrival." In part, it continues the theme of Christ's Second Return as it directs our thoughts to the Nativity and Christmas.

During Advent, we light the Advent Candles. Our mid-week Advent services will be based upon each of the candles. The first Wednesday, December 2, is called "Hope" and is based upon Isaiah 7:13-14. The Second Wednesday, December 9, is called "Faith" and is based upon Micah 5:1-5a and Luke 2:1-7. The third Wednesday, December 16, is called "Joy" and is based upon Luke 2:8-10. This year we will not have a fourth Wednesday Advent service because it is one day before Christmas Eve. On Christmas Eve we will have two services: 6 PM and 9 PM. We are also planning a Christmas Day Service at 9 AM. On Saturday, December 26th (St. Stephen's Day), we will not have service. On Sunday, December 27th, we will have service at the regular 9 AM time.

During this holiday season, may you be filled with thankfulness, hope, faith, and joy in Christ Jesus.

Weekly Worship
Saturday at 6pm
Sunday at 9am

School News

BY CHRIS LINGEL

Greetings to you in Christ!

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

- John 1:14

Advent is a special time for educators. By November, both teachers and students have usually found their rhythm and are doing everything they need to do. The patterns are set and everyone knows what to expect each day. Then the Thanksgiving Break comes as a welcome break, and we return to the realization that the school year is nearly at the halfway point. That realization can be jarring. It simultaneously feels like it's come too soon ("Wait, the year just started!") while also feeling long overdue ("Yay, we can finally listen to Christmas music!"). The habits learned in autumn give way to Christmas decorations, practicing for the Christmas service, and looking forward to the long break.

Advent is when many teachers feel especially grateful to teach in a place where we can fully appreciate the advent season with our students and prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ. We are grateful for the prayers and support of St. Paul's as we work to help raise up our children to be the servants that God means for them to be. Our calling here is a simple one: to teach and guide our students in Christ, because we know that God has a path laid out for each of them, and that they have a part to play in His plan for us.

Advent is a special time for educators because it's a season of the year when we focus on Jesus as a child, not that much younger than our students, and knowing just how wonderful, loving, and important He will become. As educators, we see that same wonder and love in our students, and we know that you do too.



ENROLL TODAY
PRESCHOOL - 5TH GRADE



**OFFERING 5 DAYS / WEEK
IN CLASS LEARNING
FLEXIBLE EXTENDED CARE
AVAILABLE**

For information or to enroll, please visit our website at www.saintpaulstroy.org or call the office at (618) 667-6314.

Why choose Saint Paul's?

- A Christ-centered and family-focused community
- Develops strong moral and spiritual character
- Passionate, effective, dedicated teachers
- Students test on average 2.7 grades above level
- Small class sizes for Preschool - 5th grade



- Receive more individualized instruction
- 10:1 student teacher ratio
- Technology-integrated instruction
- Vibrant music and art curriculum with performance and art display opportunities
- Affordable tuition with assistance programs
- Flexible extended care options
- National Lutheran School Association accredited
- Recognized by the Illinois State Board of Education

School Year Theme

SENT TO SERVE

UPCOMING EVENTS

Christmas Break
December 19 - January 3

Lutheran Schools Week
January 24-29

Congratulations to Lucy, a 5th grader, whose design was selected for the LESA Christmas Card Contest. Cards are \$10/pack. Order yours today and support Lutheran schools!
<https://lesastl.org/product/joy-in-jesus-christmas-cards/>



Classroom Highlight

By: Mrs. Carrie Dumar

While it doesn't seem like we've been in school for very long, here we are in December already! Nearly half of the year has gone by and we have accomplished so much. When school first began, teachers and students were all apprehensive regarding the new restrictions and rules put in place to keep everyone safe. Now, we all have established routines and the amount of learning happening has been amazing!

One of the learning experiences that the 3-4-5 classroom is most excited about is the Adopt A Cow program we are participating in. As I write this, we are still awaiting news of whether our calf will be a boy or girl, but the class prediction is girl. We should be finding out who was right very soon. Throughout the year, we will receive regular updates on how our cow is growing with links to various activities. We will even get to visit virtually with our cow and its farmer closer to the end of the school year. Thanks to Mrs. Lilienkamp for recommending the program!

The class has been busy with other learning activities, as well. After completing our first science unit on habitats, everyone did biome projects on a chosen environment. For some, it was their first big project, and we all learned quite a lot about animal homes around the world.

We have also begun doing reports on the fifty states. The first part of the country we explored was the Northeast. Famous people, places, and products were the focus, and everyone survived giving their first class presentation.

Another big accomplishment for our class was learning the multiplication facts from 0-12. There was a lot of encouragement and support from each student to help everyone be successful in learning this important skill. Once we were all successful we celebrated with an ice cream party. We are currently looking forward to learning how the Christmas holiday is celebrated around the world, and of course having our own celebration to remember the birth of our Savior.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Mrs. Dumar's 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade class!



LWML

By Valerie Meyer

Greetings in the name of Jesus!

The LWML theme verse is Serve the LORD in gladness! Psalm 100:2. I love this verse and Psalm because from it, I learned my first Bible verse: Make a joyful noise unto the LORD. Psalm 100:1. Good News, Felicitations, Happy Day, our Jesus has washed our sins away! That is why I sign my messages Joy in Jesus. Therefore, with Joy, let me tell you a little bit about what is happening with the LWML; here at St. Paul's, in Illinois, the United States and around the world.

The ladies of St. Paul have met twice in-person and now would like to invite all of the women in the congregation to meet with us again on December 7th at 7:00 pm in the Gymnasium. The first Monday in December is the traditional day for our Christmas Party. This year we will not be able to play crazy bunco. However, we will have a joyful meeting to watch a humorous presentation on Katie Luther. A Lutheran Woman Humorist (yes, there is one of those) will give us a gleeful insight into the life and times of Martin Luther and inspire us to Serve the LORD with gladness, wherever we are and whatever our vocation. The mission ingathering will be canned food donations for Ministries Unlimited, along with gloves, mittens, hats and socks for local shelters. (Only new socks please. Hats, gloves and mittens should be in good repair and clean). And of course, we will sing some Christmas Carols, have a devotion and bask in the glow of friendship & fellowship.

I have attached a list of our up-coming meetings for 2021. These meetings are for inspiration and encouragement. The mission of LWML is to assist each woman ... in affirming her relationship with the Triune God so that she is enabled to use her gifts in ministry to the people of the world. Therefore the purpose of our meetings is to discuss and find ways to serve the church all the while encouraging each other in our daily personal vocation and service to Jesus. We do that by having devotions, mission speakers and working on projects. Attending meetings of the LWML is meant to be a refreshment; a time of sharing and being together. Each National LWML president has a theme for the four year term. President Debbie Larson has chosen a logo and theme that says "Thanks be to God! We are HIS!" Check out President Debbie's blog and all of the daily inspirations and resources that are available on the LWML Women in Mission website: <https://www.lwml.org/home>

We met on November 16th and enjoyed an inspirational message from Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer. Talk about being on fire for Jesus! That is Dr. Meyer. The video was prepared as the keynote address for the Southern Illinois District LWML convention. The presentation is available on the SID LWML website. Not only Dr. Meyer's message is available, but there are other inspirational messages from the missionaries supported around the world by the SID LWML. Check out the montage of photos of Esther, the Comfort Dog. Or learn about the outreach to college students at SIUE. A list of all of the new mission grants that will be supported with the mite offerings is also available. The website is: <https://www.sidlwml.org/2020-sid-convention>

Shut -Ins

Lila Goedelman
St. Paul's Senior Community
1021 West E Street, Rm 2055 B
Belleville, IL 62220

Barbara Wright
Morningside Care Center
39 Dorothy Drive, Rm 112
Troy, IL 62294

Lois Rodenbaugh
714 Troy Rd.
Collinsville, IL 62234

Virginia Niebruegge
Morningside Care Center
39 Dorothy Drive, Rm 319
Troy, IL 62294

Fran Hosto
Morningside Care Center
39 Dorothy Drive, Rm 112
Troy, IL 62294

LaVerne Boeshans
123 W. Throp St.
Troy, IL 62294

Shirley Schnoeker
300 South Station Road, Apt. 8303
Glen Carbon, IL 62034

Beulah Jones
% Pam Morgan (daughter)
6872 Loyet Rd
Collinsville, IL 62234

Please consider sending our
shut-ins a card during this
season.

A list of the upcoming meetings is on the LWML Women in Mission bulletin board in the narthex. The LWML works closely with Lutheran World Relief, Orphan Grain Train and LCMS world mission to provide mercy outreach to people in need. At St. Paul's we have quilts that need to be tied for Lutheran World Relief. We have partial materials to make up school kits and hygiene kits for Lutheran World Relief as well. Many of you may not be aware that LWR shipping containers with relief supplies were lost or damaged in the August 4th explosion at the shipping port in Beirut, Lebanon. Stay tuned for opportunities to contribute as we gather supplies to complete or make more kits, and tie quilts for LWR to replace lost goods and assist with the ongoing disaster relief in Central America.

As many of you may be wondering how we can help people in the United States, let me assure you that the LWML is working to care and serve not only those abroad but in the diverse communities of the United States. The National LWML grants are providing care and comfort in poverty stricken Detroit, bringing Jesus to children on the Wind River Indian Reservation in Wyoming, providing counseling and support to students at the University of Nebraska Lutheran Chapel as a means to mitigate young adult suicide and supporting Lutheran Schools. The harvest field is great and laborers are few. Help support the LWML with your prayers. As with all giving, we have fallen behind. Therefore, if you have mites in mite boxes at home, please bring them to the church. You may turn mites into the church office or place them in the large mite box on the LWML table in the narthex. If you would like to collect or contribute mites, please take a box from the LWML table in the narthex.

As you can see, Covid 19 may have limited our meetings and changed the ways that we meet together but the LWML Lutheran Women in Mission are still moving, working and striving to tell the world about Jesus. So above all else, Joy in Jesus,



Volunteer for the Christmas Cookie Fundraiser

Event Details
Date: December 13, 2020
Time: 10 am to 1 pm
St. Paul's Gym

- **Bake Cookies!!!**
 - Sign up in Narthex
 - St. Paul Website at <https://www.saintpaulstroy.org/>
or <https://tinyurl.com/StPCookieSignup>
 - **Cookie Drop Off*** on Saturday 1 pm to 5 pm
 - **Setup/Cookie Drop Off*** on Sunday 8 am to 10 am
 - **Work the Event 10 am to 1 pm**
 - Cashier
 - Cookie Handlers
 - Runners
 - **Clean up between 1 pm to 3 pm**
- To Sign up for anything other than cookies sign up at Narthex or call Katie/Kay**
***If unable to drop off cookies during set times please let Katie or Kay know.**

Your safety is our concern. We will be requiring masks in the building. All volunteers will be using gloves and only volunteers will handle the cookies. We will be observing social distancing. We will be sanitizing regularly.



Katie Meyer: 618-799-8821
Kay Butts: 618-593-5155

St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School

112 North Border Street
Troy, IL

Church Phone: 618-667-6681
School Phone: 618-667-6314



<https://www.saintpaulstroy.org>



<http://www.youtube.com/c/StPaulsTroyIL>



<https://www.saintpaulstroy.org>

Holiday Worship

Advent Services

Dec 2, 9, 16 at 7pm

Christmas Eve Services

Dec. 24 at 6pm and 9pm

Christmas Day Service

Dec. 25 at 9am

New Year's Eve Service

Dec. 31 at 6pm



Scrip Cards

Get your Old Navy and
Cold Stone gift cards.

Usher Schedule for December 2020

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Saturday 5:00 PM Service | Christmas Services Schedule for 2020 |
| Sunday 9:00 AM Service | Wednesday Advent Services 7:00 PM |
| 12/05/2020: Seth Schaefer | 12/02/2020: Seth Schaefer |
| 12/06/2020: Mark Leitschuh | |
| Sam Italiano Jim Kesterson | 12/09/2020: Sam Italiano |
| Randy Jones Alex Engelbrecht | Jacob Doyle Tony Sipes |
| Fred Patterson | Steve Doyle Jason Kesterson |
| | |
| 12/12/2020: Seth Schaefer | 12/16/2020: Mark Leitschuh |
| 12/13/2020: Tim Wittenberg | Jim Kesterson |
| Sam Italiano Dave Thomas | Randy Jones |
| Kyle Sipes Jacob Doyle | |
| Steve Doyle | Christmas Eve Services (Thursday) |
| | 6:00 PM Service 9:00 PM Service |
| 12/19/2020: Seth Schaefer | 12/24/2020: Mark Leitschuh |
| 12/20/2020: Tim Wittenberg | 12/24/2020: Jason Kesterson |
| Sam Italiano Darrell Wittenberg | Tony Sipes Alex Engelbrecht |
| Kevin Campe Tony Sipes | Jim Kesterson Randy Jones |
| Alex Engelbrecht | Kyle Sipes |
| | |
| 12/26/2020: No Service | Christmas Service 9:00 AM |
| 12/27/2020: Fred Patterson | 12/25/2020: Seth Schaefer |
| Mark Leitschuh | |
| Jim Kesterson | New Year's Eve Service 6:00 PM |
| Darrell Wittenberg | 12/31/2020: Jacob Doyle |
| | Sam Italiano Darrell Wittenberg |
| | Steve Doyle Steve Doyle |
| | Fred Patterson |

Musician Schedule

| | |
|--------|--------------------------------|
| Dec 2 | Cayla Wilderman (organ) |
| Dec 5 | Tim Wittenberg (piano) |
| Dec 6 | Tim Wittenberg (piano) |
| Dec 9 | Jen Engelbrecht (piano) |
| Dec 12 | Jen Engelbrecht (piano) |
| Dec 13 | Jen Engelbrecht (piano) |
| Dec 16 | Jen Engelbrecht (piano) |
| Dec 19 | Cayla Wilderman (organ) |
| Dec 20 | Claudia Loethen (organ) |
| Dec 24 | 6 PM Tim Wittenberg (piano) |
| | 9 PM Elizabeth Meschke (organ) |
| Dec 25 | Elizabeth Meschke (organ) |
| Dec 27 | Elizabeth Meschke (organ) |
| Dec 31 | Elizabeth Meschke (organ) |