

# *St. Paul Lutheran Church*

## *January 2024 Newsletter*

I am so grateful and blessed by the help and response from our congregation with the live nativity and concert. Thank You to those who helped joyfully with the many tasks and duties to help share of the story of our Savior's birth! I pray that this was a blessing to St. Paul Lutheran and to our local communities!

In Christ in Service Jayne Maser

### **~ LIVE NATIVITY ~**







Zak and his goats and alpacas were a big hit!





# THE GIVING TREE

There was such a huge response to the giving tree! Thank you to those who planned, donated, and wrapped gifts for local children! So many blessings! All glory to God!





Thank You Tracy, Grace, Isla,  
Marlowe, Abe, Harlan, Nash,  
Connie, Abe and Jayne for  
wrapping presents!



# CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The Everson's with Catrina Campbell and Sophia Ostrom gave us a wonderful Christmas concert last Sunday afternoon. Some of the tunes were just plain fun and some were beautiful and so meaningful. Thank you so much Dave and all!



# HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE CONFIRMATION AND SUNDAY SCHOOL KIDS



Hunter, Char, Piper, Norah and Corbin



Liam, Croix, Harlan, Abe, Lucy, Elliotte, Isla, Marlowe, Nash



# *Birthdays & Anniversaries*

# CHURCH NEWS

## **Contribution Statements:**

They will be issued in middle of January 2024.

**Family Dinner:** Wednesday January 3<sup>rd</sup> from 5-7pm.

**Quilting Ladies** will be making quilts beginning January 8<sup>th</sup> at 10am.

## **Youth Group:**

Wednesday Meeting will be January 10<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at the Church.

## **Flower Chart:**

We have open spots on the chard, come take a peek, and see what date works for you.

## **Acolyte Schedule:**

January 7th: Piper

January 14th: Norah

January 21st: Corbin

January 28th: Hunter

## **Jan 2024**

1st: Rick Williams

2nd: Colten Gorsegrner

3rd: Ian Swanson

4th: Art Schroeder

5th: Peter Hagen

6th: Pam Zabrok

14th: Ashely Brant, Bella Brant,  
Tracy Peterson

19th: Patrick and Katie Hagen

20th: Waylon Maser

23rd: Marv Maser

24th: Maria Bernhardt, Keith and  
Joanne Hopkins

26th: Sherri Metzler

27th: Randy Rabe

29th: Rebecca Perrotti

31st: Lorraine Robbins



# Confirmation Corner

We are now studying The Holy Sacrament of Baptism and what it means for us as God's people.

Our time together at the *Free Question and Pizza Day* on Saturday, Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> was very fruitful and many things were discussed and learned. The students brought so very good questions that they had on their minds. We searched many helpful passages in the Scriptures for answers/direction and some ways to move forward with those answers (what it looks like).

Confirmation classes are held Sunday mornings from 10:30am to about noon until May. Examination day is May 18, 2024 and Confirmation Day is Sunday, May 19, 2024.

Please pray for our students throughout the year.

*If you know someone who would benefit from adult confirmation instruction, or just have a question or 2, please contact the pastor by office phone voicemail 320-384-6267 (ext 2), cell (or text) 763-286-4803, or email at revmetzler18@gmail.com*

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## SUPPLICATIONS

Supplications are requests in prayer on behalf of others. Supplications may be things such as healing, to things like a better job or the like. Here are some supplications:

For those missing loved ones during this past season, that God uplifts their hearts to look to Him for hope and comfort, strength to carry on, and joyous anticipation in looking forward to being with God in heaven.

For Arden Gruett, Lois Kruse, Lorraine Robbins, Hayden Peterson, Steve Marudas, Jerome Kruse, and those named in our hearts, for God's continued healing and comfort for them and their families.

That God would grant this world peace.

For all who are making New Year's resolutions, that God help them choose resolutions wisely and give encouragement and strength to be successful in carrying them out.



**Council Meeting Agenda**  
**St Paul Lutheran Church**  
**December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

Call to Order at 7:00 pm. Present: Bill, Carol, Jennifer, Star, Rod, Pastor, Bill, Wendy, Toby, Greg, Matt

Open with Prayer by Pastor.

Approve Agenda/Additions Carol 1<sup>st</sup>, Greg 2<sup>nd</sup>. Approve Minutes from November Council Meeting Bill 1<sup>st</sup>, Star 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Treasurer's Report

Checking 28,031.72. Savings 27,745.84 include 20,000.00 loan for pastor and Memorials 5983.02. Total income 118,322.78 Total expenses 120,752.14 Net Income -2429.36

**Pastor's Report**

Home visits, 2 hospital visits, off sit meetings / visits, Bible Studies, Confirmation classes, Pre-marital classes, Officiated Thanksgiving Service, Elder Meeting and Elder dinner, writing for Spotlight on Faith. In the works, Funeral and Visitation, participating in Live Nativity December 10th, Caroling December 16<sup>th</sup>, working on Liturgies for Christmas, pre-planning Lent/Holy Week, continues to work on inter-parish men's group events, continue to write for Spotlight on Faith

**Elder's Report** send Thank-you card for guests who worship with us, Pastor and Jennifer will try to watch guest book.

**Trustee Report** David will be overseeing Fire Extinguisher checks and updates due in December. Bee problem will plug holes. Ants in Sunday school room, addressed with ant traps and Terro.

**Other Committee Reports** None at this time.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Roof Update Hoping to hear positive news in the coming week or two.
- B. Snow Removal-Elliotts will be doing the plowing. Elliott's will be plowing this winter. 2 inch snowfalls, Church will clear sidewalks and salt them as needed. Elliott's will salt parking lot if we order it. Carol, Robbie and David will watch lot and Sidewalks if necessary we can call Elliott's sooner if we feel the need.
- C. Checking Account Closures and CC Orders (Rebecca is only card needed at this time) Bank wants detailed motions on each account. Motion by Wendy 2<sup>nd</sup> by Carol.
- D. Bank Resolution in progress, awaiting second submission of Stars information, then Aaron, Toby, Star and Wendy will need to be present for finalizing at Northview Bank.
- E. QuickBooks Star is awaiting IT to assist. Tracy attempted to load QuickBooks, however unsuccessful. Looking for Disk 2018 or newer or will have to Order and pay monthly for the program. Need to have by year end.
- F. Bulletins to Include Prayer list, and Prayer list to include Service Members please. This was decided at the Sept. meeting. Jennifer and Pastor will try to get this information.

## NEW BUSINESS

- A. Christmas Gifts was decided to continue as previous years.
- B. Nativity Sunday, December 10 from 1-3. Marshmallows, cookies and beverages will be served. Music will follow.
- C. Christmas Concert December 17<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm. Everson Concert at 2:00 pm with cookies and beverages following.
- D. Can council coordinate advent meal on Dec 20<sup>th</sup>? See sign up sheet with Jennifer.
- E. Fellowship is paying the \$220.00 advertising cost for the Christmas Concert, should it come out of general instead? Agreed with plan Carol 1<sup>st</sup> Doug 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- F. Can quarterly meeting minutes made public earlier? There was a fiasco with fellowship basket week after meeting. Expediting this might help future situations. Yes. Council secretary will submit in 1-2 days post meetings .

## Other Business

Facebook postings Add Wendy to Media committee.  
Adjourn 7:45 pm Close with Lord's Prayer

*Submitted by Carol Robinson, Secretary*

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## *Did you know?*

What is *the difference between the Tabernacle, the Temple, and synagogue?*

The **Tabernacle** was a portable complex of specially designed tents where the people of Israel worshipped God during the exodus. Everything about the Tabernacle was instructed by God and made by the best craftsman in Israel, including how everything was to be made and what they were made of, from the walls right down to the furnishing, utensils, and even what the priests would wear while serving in the Tabernacle. This complex had 3 parts: the outer court, the holy place, and the Most Holy Place.

The **Temple** was the very large, permanent Jewish church building the stood on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. It was first built by King Solomon. It was later expanded during the Hasmonean rule (rich ruling family) making a bit larger then when Solomon originally built it. It was built to the huge, magnificent Temple area that Jesus saw during His time on earth by King Herod the Great.

A **synagogue** is a smaller permanent version of The Temple, that can be located anywhere and used for worship by those practicing Judaism. Although you may have heard some Jewish folks use the phrase "*going to Temple*" (real life or TV) it, for the most part, means that that person is going to go to worship at a synagogue, You could think of a synagogue as a 'mini' Temple.

# CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

**Church Email:** [st.paulhinckley@yahoo.com](mailto:st.paulhinckley@yahoo.com)

**Church Phone:** (320) 384-6267

**Website:** [www.stpaulhinckleymn.org](http://www.stpaulhinckleymn.org)



**Like us on Facebook!** <https://www.facebook.com/SPLCHINCKLEY>

Check **Facebook** or **church website** for any updates on schedules for **Worship Service** and other events.

## Pastor

Rev. Mike Metzler

## Church Secretary

Jennifer Kubesh

## Church Newsletter

Jennifer Kubesh  
Cydelle Klände

## Organists

Sue Hickle  
Connie Odendahl

## Church Council

*Meets 1<sup>st</sup> Monday  
each month at 7pm*

**Chairman:** Aaron Peterson

**Vice Chair:** Toby Hickle

**Elders:** Rod Lawin

John Frank

Matt Maser

Greg Kroschel

**Trustees:** Bill Morgan

David Berquist

Doug Kottke

**Secretary:** Carol Robinson

**Fin. Sec.:** Star Lawin

**Treasurer:** Wendy Kottke

## Stewardship

**12/01/2023 – 12/31/2023**

General Fund.....\$12,498.38

OE General .....\$3,878.00

OE Missions.....\$200.00

OE Sunday School .....\$50.00

Little Lambs.....\$10.00

Altar Flowers .....\$212.00

OE CASE.....\$20.00

Fellowship Rental .....\$100.00

VBS .....\$5.00

**TOTAL .....\$17,018.38**

**I WANT MORE OF YOU  
AND LESS OF ME.**



He must become GREATER, and I must become LESS

**John 2:20**

# CREATION MOMENTS

*Proclaiming Evidence for Truth*

## THIS WEEK'S CREATION MOMENT

### The Best Camouflage of All



*And God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea... (Genesis 1:28b)*

If you held a salpa maggiore in one hand and looked at it closely, what you would see is ... your hand! That's because this strange marine invertebrate is transparent! Put it back in the water, and it would almost completely disappear. A fisherman who found one floating near the top of the water said, "It felt scaly and was quite firm, almost jelly like, and you couldn't see anything inside aside from this orange little blob inside it."

Paul Cox, director of conservation and communication at the National Marine Aquarium, said: "The salp is barrel-shaped and moves by contracting, pumping water through its gelatinous body. It strains the water through its internal feeding filters, feeding on phytoplankton from the upper sunlit layer of the ocean. They have an interesting life-cycle with alternate generations existing as solitary individuals or groups forming long chains."

Getting back to its transparency, Cox observed, "In common with other defenseless animals that occupy open water ... the translucence presumably provides some protection from predation. Being see-through is a pretty good camouflage in water." Indeed it is. And the salpa maggiore couldn't have acquired such camouflage through mutations no matter how many billions of years you allow for evolution to take place. In the hands of an all-powerful Creator, however, such remarkable camouflage is no problem at all. In fact, God specializes in creating animals and plants that shut the mouths of evolutionists and open the mouths of His followers with words of praise!

Ref: Leon Watson, "Now that's a jelly fish! Stunned fisherman catches wobbly shrimp-like creature that's completely see-through," DailyMail.com, 1/21/14. Photo: Salpa maggiore. © Caters News Agency (Fair Use)

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# JANUARY 2024



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<i>January Ushers: Yonna &amp; Noah Hickie</i>	1 NEW YEAR'S DAY	2 1pm BOF Mtg	3 5pm Family Dinner	4	5	6 <i>Pastor's days off</i>
7 9am Worship 10am Fellowship 10am Sunday School 10:30am Confirmation 2pm Fellowship Rental	8 10am Quilting 7pm Council Mtg	9	10 10am Bible Study 6pm Youth Group	11	12	13 <i>Pastor's days off</i>
14 9am Worship w/ Communion 10am Fellowship 10am Sunday School 10:30am Confirmation	15 10am Quilting	16	17 10am Bible Study	18	19 <i>Newsletter Due</i>	20 11am Fellowship Rental <i>Pastor's days off</i>
21 9am Worship 10am Quarterly Mtg 10am Fellowship 10am Sunday School 10:30am Confirmation	22 10am Quilting	23	24 10am Bible Study	25	26	27 <i>Pastor's days off</i>
28 9am Worship w/ Communion 10am Fellowship 10am Sunday School 10:30am Confirmation	29 10am Quilting	30	31 10am Bible Study			

*St. Paul Lutheran Church*  
*PO Box 99*  
*Hinckley, MN 55037*

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**January 2024**



For God so Loved the World