

St. Paul Lutheran Church

December 2023 Newsletter



Greetings and His peace to you!

Shortly, we will be in the season of Advent, and we'll be in the Advent season right until Christmas Eve. That's nearly the whole month of December. It is right that we should celebrate this season for such a lengthy period of time as without it we wouldn't have forgiveness or salvation.

Hey Pastor, are you sure you aren't talking about Easter? Well, I could be, but in this case no. The word *advent* is a Latin word that means 'coming.' If Jesus didn't *come* down and live among us, there would have been no resurrection and no salvation for us. It's the reason we continue to have worship on the 1st day of the week. It is to celebrate the resurrection of our Savior. Each Sunday is a 'mini' Easter celebration. And why shouldn't we celebrate our Savior's victory over sin, death, and the power of the devil? After all, Jesus did it to save God's creation and we're part of that creation. We would be in more than just dire straits without the love and grace we receive from God. But it all started from the very beginning, when God gave His promise to save us. He promised that a **THE** Messiah would be *coming* and the Advent season is both to rejoice that He **IS** come and He *will come again* on the Last Day to take all believers with Him to heaven! We have received the ultimate forgiveness from God through His Son, Jesus the Christ. God does still want us to confess to Him when we sin. And one of the ways we do is in that part of the Lord's Prayer where we pray, **"And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us."** Martin Luther, in the Small Catechism calls this the **5th Petition** of the Lord's Prayer.

In this request part, we are asking God to NOT look at our sins or deny our prayers because of our sins. Luther continues in the meaning of the 5th

Petition, *"We are neither worthy of the things for which we pray, nor have we deserved them, but we ask that He would give them all to us by grace, for we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment. So, we too will sincerely forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us."*

We were born into sin and our fallen human nature prevents us from being in a 'right' relationship with God, and because of that we are not worthy to ask God for anything. With the forgiveness that we have because of Jesus, we are seen as being 'right' with God and we can pray to God with the confidence and joy that only comes with the certainty of forgiveness. You and I were forgiven through Jesus, and God wants us to forgive others in the same way He has forgiven us. This is rightly so as Jesus died and was raised for **ALL** people. God wants us to forgive as He forgave us and we should because of the grace He has shown to us.

Forgiving another who has sinned against you is never easy. It's hard because of our nature and this is why God gives us the strength to step out of our comfort zone and go to that person to confess and ask for forgiveness, or be the one who is forgiving.

Forgiveness is so important to God that He, in **Matthew 5:23-24**, wants us to *"be reconciled"* with our brother (or sister) *before* making an offering on His altar. Did you catch that? BEFORE making an offering to God! It's that important to Him. God also gave us instructions in **Matthew 18** that tell us how to go about reconciling.

The bottom line is that it's so important to God that He sent His one and only Son here to earth to reconcile us to Him.

Have a blessed and joyous Advent and Christmas!

in His name,
Pastor Mike Metzler



Please join us on Sunday, December 10th
at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Hinckley for a

Live Nativity



“Away in a Manger”

Please come and enjoy the **live nativity from 1 to 3 pm**. There will be warming/
marshmallow roasting fires outside, *and* hot cider & cocoa, cookies, and treats
inside.

Then stay for an indoor **Christmas concert starting at 3pm** featuring voice and
instrumental hymns & songs on the organ, piano, and bells. The grand finale' is
everyone singing beloved Christmas hymns together as one voice of praise and
glory to God!

Sunday December 17th at 2 PM

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The Everson's, featuring
Catrina Campbell



St Paul Lutheran Church
405 2nd Street NW
Hinckley

Freewill Offering



CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Advent Worship (Wednesday's):

December 6th: *First Wednesday of Advent*

Family Dinner at 5 to 7pm, followed by Worship at 7pm

Dec. 13th: Light Meal at 6pm, Worship Service at 7pm

Dec 20th: Light Meal at 6pm, Worship Service at 7pm.

Live Nativity:

Sunday December 10th starting at 1pm



Christmas Caroling:

Saturday December 16th at 1:30pm

Hot cocoa, coffee, and goodies afterwards at Perrotti's.

Christmas Concert:

Sunday December 17th at 2pm

Come listen to The Everson's featuring Catrina Campbell

Please join us for coffee and treats after the concert

Sunday School Program:

Sunday, December 18th - 9am during Service

Christmas Worship Times:

Sunday December 24th – 9am Regular Worship

4pm Christmas Eve Service

Monday December 25th – 9am Christmas Day Worship



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 providing respite care, that God uplifts their hearts to look to Him for courage and strength to have compassion on and help others needing help both in daily life.

For Arden Gruett, Lois Kruse, Lorraine Robbins, Florence Berquist, Hayden Peterson, Marlys Knutson, Jim Christiansen and those named in our hearts, for God's continued healing and comfort for them and their families.

For those serving abroad in any way, that God would grant the world peace, that all His servants in the world would have good rest without having concerns for their own well-being and that of their families.

For all traveling during this Advent and Christmas season, that God keep everyone safe both to and from their destinations, and bless their visits with friends and family.

Did you know?

What is *trespassing*? Trespassing is a word many of are familiar with, especially now as a major hunting season just ended. The dictionary will have the definition of this word as "to enter unlawfully on the land ('in' for property) of another." While this definition is the one that most of us know and use, there is another.

Trespass, in the Biblically sense, means something much different. The definition of Biblical trespass is "to actively sin against God." While that definition might make one ask 'why don't we just say sin and keep it simple?' That would be a fair question. The 'kind' of sin is kept separate (it is still sin no matter how we classify it) because it is not the same as the 'original sin' that we 'inherited' from Adan and Eve at the Fall.

We say 'trespass' in the Lord's Prayer because Jesus wanted us to recognize/realize that we still sin actively (meaning we *do* sin/act sinfully). The difference being that inherited original sin is passive (not a sinful act) and a trespass is active (is a sinful act that we do/commit).



CHURCH NEWS



Acolyte Schedule:

Acolyte Schedule for December will be emailed out to families when completed. Thank you.

Dec Ushers:

Matt Maser and Tony Nelson (*unless noted*)

Advent Services: Steve Marudas

Christmas Eve 4pm: Matt Maser and Tony Nelson

Christmas Day: Eddie and Kelsey Odendahl

January Ushers: Yonna and Noah Hickie

Choir Practice: We will have practice on Wed Dec 6th after Advent Services, and also on Sunday Dec 10th after Church Service.

No Confirmation and Sunday School on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

Orange Envelopes are due back by Sunday Dec. 31st. You can put them in the offering plate, mail them in or drop them off in the office. Extra orange envelopes are on the usher's table if you need one. Thank You!

Contribution Statements:

They will be issued in middle of January 2024.

Quilting Ladies will be making quilts sometime in January. Watch the Sunday bulletin after the holidays for more information.

Youth Group:

There is no December Meeting. Next Wednesday Meeting will be January 10th at 6pm at the Church. Thank you to all who participated in Operation Christmas Child. Also thank you to all who ordered a wreath's this year.

Poinsettias:

If you would like to order a poinsettia this holiday season, sign up sheet is at church. The cost is \$12.00 and the last day to order is Nov 26th.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

Dec 2023

1st: Eddie Odendahl
2nd: Aaron and Tracy Peterson
3rd: Jeff Rogneby
4th: Sue Davis
7th: Matt Zabrok
9th: Warren Bottleson
10th: Charlotte Rabe
11th: Eddie and Kelsey Odendahl
12th: Emmanuel Somnuk
14th: Bill Morgan
15th: Levi Hickle
16th: John Maser
 Vern Volk
19th: Brooke Tracy
20th: Zander Klar
 Trent Rabe
 Jennifer Kubesh
22nd: Connie Odendahl
24th: Jacob Maser
25th: Baby Jesus
28th: Greg Odendahl
31st: Barb Morgan

If we missed anyone, please let Jennifer know!

Flower Chart:

Dec. 3rd: Wendy Kottke

.....in loving memory of Beth

Dec. 10th: Barb Schroeder

.....in loving memory of Dutch

Dec 17th: In Honor of the Children's Christmas Program

Dec 24th: Merry Christmas!

Dec 31st: (open)

Prayer List:

Florence, Dora, Janice, Lois, Mary, Mona, Arden, Carolyn, Lorraine, Lois

Prayers:

To the family and friends of Ray and Gerry Graber, Diana Norton, Joanne Hedtke as they go through this holiday season missing their loved ones.



Council Meeting Agenda
St Paul Lutheran Church
November 6th, 2023

1. Call to Order at 7:00 PM
Present, Matt, David, Rod, Star, Aaron. Wendy, Bill, Carol, John
2. Open with Prayer, Pastor
3. Approve Agenda/Additions.
4. Approve Minutes from October Council Meeting. David 1st Bill 2nd
5. Treasurer's Report.
Total Income 95,597.80. Net Income -15,219.52
Total Expense 110,817.32. Total checking 42,987.40. Total Memorial 5,983.02. Rod 1st / Carol 2nd
6. Pastor's Report: Included home visits, on site/ off site meetings, 1 Baptism, Bible studies on Wednesday. As well as additional meetings and conferences. Plans in the works for advent, Christmas, Lent and Holy Week. Pastor continues to write for Spotlight on Faith.
7. Elder's Report : Baptism of Non Member Child by Pastor and Elder Greg.
8. Trustee Report: Outside Winter Prep of building, windows. Benches. Change Clocks, December will get Fire Extinguishers serviced. New computer for office working well.
9. Other Committee Reports: Jayne – BOF, Getting ready to wrap up directory, Missionary, 12/10/23 will be doing a live Nativity with concert and fellowship following.
Sunday School going well with 5-8 children using Enduring Faith Curriculum. In the plans Christmas program 12/17/23 @ 09:00.
10. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. Roof Update no new news as of yet.
 - B. Orange Envelopes sent out 10/30/23
 - C. German Fest Final Tally.
4020.00 gross. 1144.00 expenses. 140.00 advertising. 2736.00 profit to general fund.
 - D. Social Media Oversight Committee (need 2 people).
Cydelle, Tracy, Jayne, Jennifer and Carol have access to Facebook.
 - E. Snow Removal Contract.
Elliot's 2023-2024 season. Star 1st Toby 2nd
 - F. Parking Lot Winter Care Crew (need 2 people). Elders over see, Pastor and Elders. David, Carol and Robbie will keep eye on lot.
Davis 1st Carol 2nd
 - G. Checking Account Closures and CC Orders.
Debit / credit cards needed before closing Account with hopes of closing by end of 2023. Card members Jayne. Rebecca, Jennifer and Doug.
 - H. Bank Resolution is it complete? Need signatures and add Star to account.

11. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Little Lambs Funds at quarterly it was decided council to decide on how to proceed with remaining funds. 80% to General fund and 20% to Missions.
Carol 1st Matt 2nd
- B. Membership List. Elders will be reviewing at meetings. BOF will track and photos.
- C. Checking Account Audit. After closed, formal request to audit the accounts, youth and fellowship
- D. QuickBooks Options looking into options. Quick Books new computer 30.00 mth/ 360.00 annually. Save old information to Thumb drive to download to the new computer. Desk top vs online program 2024 version. Carol 1st Star 2nd

12. Other Business Trash pickup twice monthly

13. Adjourn Bill 1st Star 2nd

14. Close with Lord's Prayer

Submitted by Carol Robinson, Council Secretary



Confirmation Corner

Welcome to the Confirmation Corner!

Confirmation classes are held Sunday mornings from 10:30am to about noon until May. Examination Confirmation Day is May 18 and Confirmation Day is Sunday, May 19. We are nearly done study of the Lord's Prayer and its Petitions and meanings. We will be studying The Holy Sacrament of Baptism next.

On the afternoon of Saturday, Dec 2, we are having a Free Question and Pizza Day where the students will have the opportunity to ask any question(s) that they have on their mind and together we will search the Scripture for answers/direction.

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

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

Church Email: st.paulhinckley@yahoo.com

Church Phone: (320) 384-6267

Website: 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 Klande

Organists

Sue Hickle

Connie Odendahl

Church Council

*Meets 1st 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

11/1/23 – 11/19/23

General Fund \$6,932

OE General \$2,570

OE Missions \$100

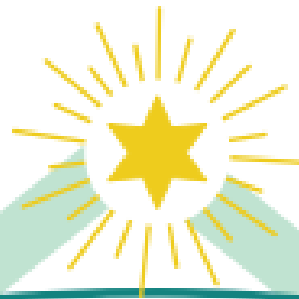
OE Sunday School \$25

Sunday School \$2

OE Youth \$50

OE CASE \$25

TOTAL \$9,704



HOLY NIGHT

A D N H P W P J Q B T G F F S Q V
Y D M Q M I A A S T A R R L G F R
F X F A G R D O N K E Y A S Q L J
F S B U G S A V I O R M N F W U W
H H E A X W I X H Z I E K J A C B
E E T M B Y J R S N M V I N Z X I
M P H I N Y R O A E H H N U G L B
I H L B K Y P G S Z B N C Z O Q J
W E E Z M Z N I M E U Q E X L M E
K R H I M Z W F M E P S N P D N S
Z D E R A S K T A B A H S L D Y U
G N M Q J J J S N Y I A E S R V S
V A N F Q F A T G F T G I A Z T X
N J C U R Z Z X E U N O M N G L Z
B K Y M W I H F R A P E A C E G W

ANGEL
ANIMALS
BABY
BETHLEHEM
DONKEY
FRANKINCENSE

GIFTS
GOLD
JESUS
JOSEPH
MANGER
MARY

MYRRH
PEACE
SAVIOR
SHEPHERD
STAR
WISE MEN





DECEMBER 2023



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					1	2 4pm-6pm Confirmation Q&A Session
3 9am Worship 10am Fellowship 10:30am Confirmation 10am Sunday School	4 7pm Council Mtg	5 1pm BOF Mtg	6 10am Bible Study ADVENT BEGINS 5pm Family Meal 7pm Worship 8pm Choir Practice	7	8	9 <i>Pastor's days off</i>
10 9am Worship w/ Communion 10am Fellowship 10:30am Confirmation 10am Sunday School 10am Choir Practice 1PM LIVE NATIVITY	11	12	13 10am Bible Study 6pm Meal 7pm Worship	14	15 <i>Newsletter Due</i>	16 1:30PM CHRISTMAS CAROLING <i>Pastor's days off</i>
17 9AM SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM 10am Fellowship 2PM CONCERT	18	19	20 10am Bible Study 6pm Meal 7pm Worship	21	22	23
24 9am Worship w/ Communion 4PM CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE	25 CHRISTMAS DAY! 9AM CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP 	27	28	29	30	31

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

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For God so Loved the World