



St. Paul Lutheran Church and Early Childhood Center

www.stpaulchuckery.church

December 2019



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Milford Center, Ohio 43045

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Dear Members of St Paul,

If you are like me, this time of year you will find people asking you if there is anything you want for Christmas. I can never think of anything so sometimes it is helpful to make a list. If you have been compiling your own Christmas list, allow me to offer to you some suggestions of things you could place on your own Christmas list that would be a blessing and a benefit to you to have them in your possession.

1. A Crucifix. St Paul said that he preaches Christ and him crucified. A crucifix is a wonderful thing for you to hang on your wall to remind you that Christ was crucified for you. Note that there are those opinions out there that Lutheran Christians should not have a cross with the body of Christ, because Christ isn't on the cross anymore – true enough, yet we have manger scenes with Christ in the manger and he isn't there anymore either. A crucifix places before your eyes a reminder of him who died for you. Check here: <https://bit.ly/2Qvgp1n>
2. Christian art work. It is possible to find plenty of examples of Christian art of all varieties of style and quality. I will commend to you art that is designed to draw those who view it into the text of scripture. It does this by helping us to visualize what is described on the pages of the bible. A great resource to find Christian art work that is of great quality and that faithfully confesses the Word is Ad Crucem – I recommend you check it out! Check here: <https://www.adcrucem.com/collections/art-culture>
3. A new study Bible. Perhaps you are looking to deepen your knowledge and understanding of God's Word. Perhaps you need a resource to help you in this endeavor. A *Lutheran Study Bible* from CPH would be a great resource. <https://amzn.to/2OEq1p>
4. *The Book of Concord*. Guys, have you been thinking about coming to our Wednesday morning Confessions study, but you are afraid you would be embarrassed because you don't have your own Book of Concord? Be embarrassed no longer! CPH.org sells the Book of Concord for as little as \$18.99 (for the pocket edition). This would be a great resource and study tool for any Lutheran Christian home. Check here for the \$34.99 hardcover edition: <https://amzn.to/2Qu1rJ0>
5. *Grace Upon Grace*. Are you looking for a book to deepen your walk with God? This book would be a wonderful resource to help you to do just that. I will warn you that it is not a quick read, but every page is full of insight and wisdom that will give you much to ponder and, if you commit to reading, it will help you to grow in your walk with the Lord. Check here: <https://amzn.to/2Opv9MF>
6. *Thank Praise Serve and Obey: Recover the Joys of Piety*. What in the world is piety? These days we think of it as being a good person, but piety is just simply the regular habits (disciplines) of living a Christian life. There is much wisdom to be gained from the pages of this book. Check here: <https://amzn.to/2Xr738n>

I only have so much space to make recommendations. But hopefully this short list will get you started. My prayer for you is that you enjoy this Christmas season with your family and friends. Especially, I pray that you take this season to deepen your faith and enhance your walk with God as you commit yourself to hearing his Word and receiving his gifts of mercy and grace. I look forward to our annual Christmas Eve and Christmas Morning get together here at Church. Oh, and don't forget Advent!

The Lord bless you.

Pastor Schlueter



Good Shepherd Institute

By Deaconess Janet Nicol

Recently I attended an excellent conference held every year at Concordia Theological Seminary in November. It is called the Good Shepherd Institute and is attended by many pastors, church musicians and lay persons who have a passion and a high regard for the way our Lutheran musical heritage influences our practice in worship; which ultimately influences our theology.

This year's theme was "A Living Tradition and Something New." The recently deceased pastor and professor, Norman Nagel, used these words to describe the richness of the Church's hymnody; that being the one true universal Church's hymnody. (Not just the Lutheran church.) There was a recognition of the Church's 400th anniversary of Henrich Schutz's *Psalms of David* and the 300th anniversary of Isaac Watt's collection of psalm paraphrases and the 100th anniversary of Jarsolav Vajda, who was a prolific Lutheran hymn writer and pastor. There was even a whole sectional devoted to Vajda, led by another Lutheran pastor and hymn writer whom you may be familiar with, Stephen Starke: *My Soul Rejoices* LSB 933; *Sing Praise to the God of Israel* LSB 936; *We Praise You and Acknowledge You, O God* LSB 941. We've sung them all, and many more.

In addition to this, other sectionals were educational in nature about vocal health and choir directing, Church music for children and how their spiritual formation is developed through hymnody and liturgy, and hymnal projects throughout the world just to name a few. Also, we were blessed with great musical performances including an organ recital and a hymn festival along with musical settings done during the chapel services.

The entire event was rounded out with a great presentation on the new Hymnal Companion to the Lutheran Service Book. The companion to our hymnal is rich with history about each hymn text and tune along with biographies of composers and writers. This companion will be available for purchase by the end of the year 2019. It would make a fabulous gift for your favorite organist, deaconess or pastor. (shameless plug here)

All in all, this event was a marvelous conference to attend. It's one of those things that if I could and if it were even possible to achieve, I would take each one of you along with me to enjoy and learn from as well.





St. Paul Early Childhood Center
Affiliate of St. John's Lutheran School

December 2019 Preschool News

We are busy preparing for the Christmas program. We invite you all to attend. It will be **Thursday, December 19th at 7p.m.** Soon there will be a sheet to sign-up to provide cookies for the program. The families always enjoy the homemade treats that you provide.



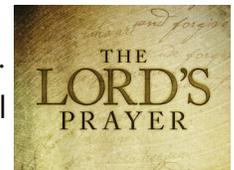
We began the month learning how to take care of the amazing bodies God created. The children learned about the best foods to eat, how to care for our teeth and wash our hands. The enrichment class learned about



the importance of muscles and skeleton that are under our skin.

The next unit of study was transportation. The enrichment class used shapes to create their own unique vehicles. The preschool class practiced counting and number recognition with a game that involved rolling a dice and moving a car that number of spaces ahead. The objective as to get the car to the house at the other end of the game board. All classes learned about the transportation methods used in the air, on land, and through the sky.

The final unit this month was about Thanksgiving. We learned how to pray to God. The classes began learning the Lord's Prayer. The children are coming to school with prayer requests.



This months Jesus Time stories were about Jesus using miracles to heal people. We studied Jesus restoring sight to the blind man and the healing of ten men with leprosy. The children learned that these healings were not things a doctor could do and that the miracles helped bring others to Jesus.

The week of Thanksgiving each morning class had a feast. Each student brought in their favorite snack to share with the rest of the class. Everyone had a great time and left the table full.





Ladies Aid Christmas Cookie Sale



As you plan your cookie order and then eat and share your cookies, please keep the Sharp family in your prayers as they spread the Gospel in Uruguay.

Ladies Aid will be selling home-made cookies for Christmas. This year our proceeds will go to support Rev. James and Angela Sharp, Missionaries of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in Uruguay. There are 6 different types of cookies available, as well as buckeyes! Cookies will be sold at \$6/dozen. Order forms will be available in the narthex on Sunday, November 17th, or you may order directly from this [link](#) (preferred). Forms will be due on December 1st to Frances Nicol. Cookies will be available for pick on December 15th. Contact Frances at fcnicol2014@gmail.com or 614-296-7446 for more information and to place your order.

5 Reasons People Don't Give to Church

(The Fourth of a Five Part Series)

"I don't see why giving to ministry should be limited to my local church"

These days there is no shortage of opportunities for charitable giving. Individuals can donate to community organizations, political parties, political candidates, children's organizations, hospitals, food pantries, the list could go on... *So why should Christians give to their church?* Sometimes when we think of the church, we think of the place we go on Sunday mornings to pray, receive the sacrament, and sing hymns to God. But the Church is much bigger than that. The Church covers the globe and reaches into the far corners of the earth. Through the local congregation the individual Christian is connected to that worldwide community of faith. The church sends money to global mission organizations that support the Ministry of Word and Sacrament at remote locations around the world. But its not just for the sake of the global mission, it is also for the sake of the local mission. While there are pastors who preach the Gospel in remote places, there is also a pastor who preaches at your home church. The Bible tells us to support our pastors with our giving (see Galatians 6:6 and 1 Corinthians 9:11). When we give to the church we make sure that our own community and indeed our own family can continue to hear God's Word preached and receive the Sacrament.



December 2019

December 1: The Sixth Commandment: You shall not commit adultery.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other.

December 8: Hebrews 13:4 Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.

December 15: The Seventh Commandment: You shall not steal.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor's money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.

December 22: Matthew 1:23: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel."

December 29: Galations 4:4-5: When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.



Prayer for the Advent Season:



Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Prayer for Christmas Day

Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



The Story of the Advent Wreath



The advent wreath became quite popular in homes in post-Reformation Germany. It seems pretty certain that in many German homes families had a custom of lighting four candles during advent, candles placed in a wreath of evergreens. When these candles were lit, Scripture and prayer was part of the custom and the family devotion time was a time of instructing the children about Christ's coming. Later, the custom crossed over different denominational lines and other faith traditions adapted its use. Today, you can find Advent wreaths in many Protestant and Roman churches.

Since the custom has seen so many different adaptations, you will also find numerous explanations of the four candles. (If there is a fifth, a white candle in the center, it is called the Christ Candle, and is lit on Christmas.) Some call the first candle the Prophecy Candle, or the Hope Candle, or the Expectation Candle. It reminded believers that God had promised throughout the Old Testament that he would send a Messiah, the Shepherd King, to save his people. The second candle is called the Bethlehem candle, or sometimes the Peace Candle. (Others call it the Preparation candle.) The third candle is sometimes called the shepherds' candle or the joy candle. It was often a pink color. The fourth candle is called the angel candle or the love candle. Naturally, for all of these themes, appropriate Scripture references could be used to help hearers and worshippers consider the various Advent themes of preparation, repentance, fulfillment of promises, the joy of Christ's coming.

The colors of the advent candles also vary. The oldest tradition had three purple candles, for purple was the color of royalty and repentance. How else would God's people prepare for the coming of the King of kings? On the third Sunday in Advent the rose or pink candle was lit. This is the candle that emphasized the joy of the shepherds as they heard the news. More recently, one sees all four candles in a deep blue color, reflecting the liturgical color of Advent that is quite common now. Blue is the color that reminds us of heaven and the expectation we have that Jesus is coming again. Blue is quite common in Lutheran churches since Lutheran Christians often emphasize the meaning of Advent as the season of coming. The readings then remind us of Christ's first coming in all humility. We remember also his promise that he will come again in glory. And we also pray that he come into our hearts through the Spirit's gracious working with the Gospel, so that with the gift of faith we now are heirs of that heavenly glory through Christ. Notice how often Advent hymns interweave these three "comings" of Christ!

The four candles remind us that in the four weeks of Advent we are preparing for the coming of the Christ Child, who is the light of the world. The wreath of evergreen could also help a person think of the victory and the new and everlasting life we have in Jesus. Blessings on your Advent preparation to



Wreaths Across America!



On December 14, 2019 we will join with wreath laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as more than 1,600 additional locations in all 50 states, at sea and abroad. Our Golden Eagles will be decorating the graves of our **Military Heroes** in an effort to **Remember, Honor, and Teach** about those who have served their country.

Veterans buried in both cemeteries will be honored with a beautiful green wreath with a red bow, shipped to our community from the Worcester Wreath Company of Harrington, Maine. These are the official wreaths, which have been use used since the program began in 1992, when they were first placed at Arlington National cemetery. The event has now grown to include cemeteries across America, all coordinated to dedicate and place the wreaths on the same day in December. The Golden Eagles will coordinate the event and we invite your donation of \$15 per wreath, which will go directly to the Wreaths Across America Foundation to cover costs. Please consider this opportunity to honor a family member, loved one, or member of our congregation with a **Wreath of Honor** this Christmas! We will be doing this in our cemetery. Watch for more details.

Make any donation checks out to "St. Paul Lutheran Church"
and
write 'Wreaths Across American' in the memo line.

Veterans Buried at St. Paul

World War I

Herman Nicol

World War II

William Dellinger

Roy Hirth

Walter Renner

Arthur Boerger

Truman Nicol

Leo Schmidt

Carl Schmidt

World War II

Paul George

Richard Burns

Lawrence Scheiderer

Martin Burns

Ralph Burns

Norman Renner

Leland Nicol

Harold Boerger

Harold Burns

Korea

Robert Moder Korea

Elmer Dale Rausch Korea

Norman Rausch Korea

Dean Burns Korea

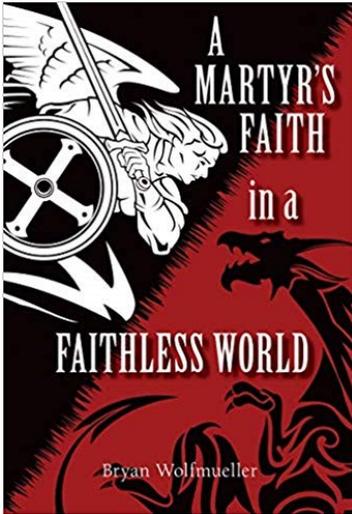
Williard Nicol Korea

Vietnam

Richard Tillman - Vietnam

Ronald Ingram - Vietnam

Ernest Burns



A Martyr's Faith in a Faithless World

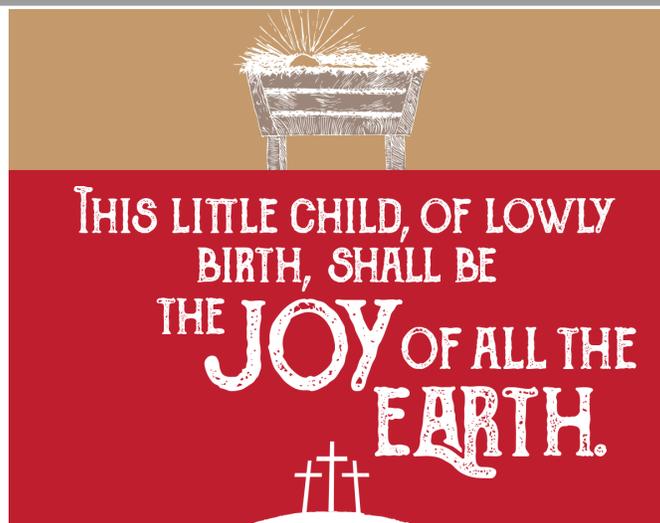
by Bryan Wolfmueller

A Review by Deaconess Janet Nicol

Pastor Bryan Wolfmueller is a master at explaining the Word in a way that is entertaining and yet simply profound. This little gem is a great exposition on the parable of the seed and the sower in Matthew 13. At the same time, he has interspersed stories of famous early Christian martyrs and spoken of how this parable paints a picture of how we as Christians live out our faith in this world.

2 Timothy 4:6-8 says, *"For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved His appearing."* This world will always be opposed to The Word. We need to realize that the devil is like a bird constantly picking away at the seed of The Word. The suffering among the rocks can create shallow roots; weeds tempt us with worldly things. We need heroes to encourage and remind us that we can be the good dirt in which The Word can grow and bear fruit, thanks to Jesus.

I recommend this book for its succinct presentation and clear explanation of the lovely parable. In addition, we get some great history lessons about martyrs which provide encouragement for us weary folks still in this world. If you are looking for nice devotional type books to read, this will provide. Each chapter is relatively short and a little lesson unto itself. Enjoy!



CHRIST CAME FOR YOU.

Come join us to receive His forgiveness, life and salvation.



Set Apart Through Grief

Many people become wiser, more humane, more compassionate, more fully human after experiencing grief. In this way, grief sets you apart. People who have gone through it are different.

"It will change you," says Sylvia, whose parents died. "You will do a 180-degree turn. When you go to a funeral, you will know what those people are going through; you'll know what you can do to help them."

"Before that, I would go to the line, shake hands and say, 'I'm sorry.' And I didn't understand. But after you've lost a loved one, you have a totally different concept of what they're going through. I think you can be a better minister, and I think God gives you some of these things to use in your own personal ministry. So it will change you."

Change is difficult, and all people experience change throughout their lives. God, though, remains the same—a solid refuge and fortress.

"I the Lord do not change" (Malachi 3:6).

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8).

Sovereign God, You never change. I can put my anchor in You and know I will remain secure. Lord, I want You to be the foundation of my life so that I will make it through life's difficult times. Amen.

By Bill Dunn & Kathy Leonard, from the book "Through a Season of Grief"



December



Wedding Anniversaries

- Dec. 1** Phoebe Burns 1942
- Dec. 4** Jenny Burns 1976
- Dec. 5 Beverly Burns 1939**
- Dec. 6** Bonnie Thiergartner 1959
Victoria Easterday 2002
- Dec. 7** Rick Peterman 1971
- Dec. 10** Nathan Picklesimer 2017
- Dec. 12** Margaret Stewart 2003
Hannah Burns 1995
- Dec. 13** Jeff Boyd 1968
- Dec. 14 Bernard Burns 1939**
Laura Paluch 1949
- Dec. 15** Wyatt Scheiderer 2004
David Burns 1937
Nicholas Cremeans 1993
- Dec. 17** Eli Thrush 2004
- Dec. 18** Joel Eickhoff 1956
Melanie Nicol 1984
- Dec. 21** Don Nicol 1941
Tim Underhill 1975
- Dec. 24** Presley Burger 2002
- Dec. 28** Autumn Scheiderer 2001
- Dec. 29** Jerry Burns 1951

- Dec. 4** John & Cheryl Alexander 1970
Kelly & Angel Agner 1999
- Dec. 6** Trevor & Michelle Burns 2003
- Dec. 24** Calvin & Bev Low 1986
- Dec. 28** Pastor Paul & Julie Schlueter 1996

December Duties

Elder Duties

- Elder of the Month—Dan Ferryman
- Recording—John Eickhoff
- Communion— Tim Underhill



Ushers

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| Gary Burns | Doug Dellinger |
| Greg Dellinger | Mark Dillahunt |

Acolytes

- December 1 & 8:** Abigail & Josh Underhill
- December 15, 22, & 29:** Zachary Picklesimer & Wyatt Scheiderer

Greeters

- Dec. 1:** Marvin & Karen Boerger and Ronald & Linda Boerger
- Dec. 8:** Tim & Kristy Bosley and Don & Phyllis Bouic
- Dec. 15:** Rob & Angie Bouic
Jeff & Deborah Boyd
- Dec. 22:** Darrell & Becky Breneman and Bernard & Beverly Burns
- Dec. 24:** Gary & Mary Burns and Danny Burns
- Dec. 25:** Jerry & Ann Burns and Joan Burns
- Dec. 29:** Barbara Burns and David & Phoebe Burns



December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:30am Breakfast at the Manger 10:15 am Worship 11:30 Confirmation	2	3 8:30am Ladies Bible Study 7pm Elders	4 7p Advent Service 8pm Choir	5 8pm Dartball	6	7
8 9:00am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship 11:30a Confirmation 12P Buckeye and Cookies	9	10 6pm BOPE	11 6am Men's Conf. Study 1:30p ACES 7p Advent Service 8p Choir	12	13	14
15 9:00am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship 11:30a Confirmation 5:30p Christmas at the Parsaonage	16 7:30a-3:00p Gym Rsvd.	17 8:30am Ladies Bible Study 7p Church Council 7p Outreach	18 6p Choir & Sunday School Prac- tice 7p Advent Service	19 7p Preschool Christmas Play & Party	20	21
22 9:00am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship	23	24 7:00pm Christmas Eve Service 	25 10:00 am Christmas Day Service 	26	27	28 10:00 am Gym Rsvd.
29 9:00am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship	30	31				