



St. Paul Lutheran Church

4167 Juddville Road
Fish Creek WI 54212 ~ (920) 868-2826
<http://stpaulutheranjudville.360unite.com/home>



December 2019

EPISTLE

ADVENT



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The prophet Isaiah called a people to make preparation for the coming of the Lord. This call comes to us today as we live our lives in the reality of our Lord who has come and will come again.

Get ready and make your paths straight. What does this mean for us today. For me, it means to get my act together in fundamental yet profound ways. It means forgiving those who have sinned against me and to seek reconciliation. It means going to the one against whom I have sinned, confessing, repenting and seeking forgiveness. This is all about relationships we share and which are all shared because they are a gift from God. We need to “get right.”

Making a straight path, for me, is also about putting God first in all of my life. This is about acknowledging everything which is in the way of me doing this and seeking God's help with removing that which is in the way.

The season of Advent is all about preparation, preparing the way of the Lord. While we scurry about getting ready for Christmas, might we take time for renewal of relationships with our neighbors and with our Lord?

While trees and decorations will go up and come down, packages will be opened and one day will be cast aside, the relationships with which we are gifted deserve our attention. And the relationship we share with our Lord is that from which all relationships are brought forth.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel. Emmanuel, God with us. May we welcome this God into our lives each day.

In Christ,

Pastor Frank

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

Looking Ahead to Advent....

During the upcoming season of Advent, we expectantly wait and prepare for the celebration of the [Nativity of Jesus](#) at [Christmas](#) as well as the return of Jesus at the second coming.

We do this while the world is busy finishing a calendar year—and the month is filled with shopping, pageants, and parties beyond what our energy and time can handle. But, while society urges us to hurry and spend, scripture and tradition beckon us to slow down and wait.

This midweek worship series provide services of prayer, readings, and song. Each service offers time for silent reflection on the themes offered.

Wednesday evening services will be held on December 4th, 11th, and 18th at 6:00 P.M. The theme will be “Preparing in Christ’s presence.”

Wednesday, December 04th at 6:00 P.M. – Do Less

Wednesday, December 11th at 6:00 P.M. – Experience Wonder

Wednesday, December 18th at 6:00 P.M. – Hold on to Hope

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

TUESDAY, 24TH 5:30PM & 7:30PM

We will focus on God’s gift to us and our response. We sing the story of Christ's birth, hear the Word and share in the Lord’s Supper. During the 5:30pm worship, a Christmas Time with Children will be offered. Worship concludes with the congregation singing a medley of carols by candlelight, *Silent Night, Holy Night*.

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP

WEDNESDAY, 25TH 9:30AM

The Nativity of Our Lord Worship will be formed by Word and Sacrament and the congregation will sing the story through

additional hymns which will replace portions of the sung liturgy. We will all hear the story behind each hymn. There is indeed something life giving as we awake to the birth of our Lord, worship and proclaim him. O Come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

USHERS – READERS – ASSISTING MINISTERS – ALTAR GUILD

Thank you, thank you, thank you to all who have served as ushers, readers, altar guild or assisting ministers. Your help is still needed in December especially for the Christmas Worship. Please review the Christmas sign-up sheet for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day for your assistance to serve.

YEAR END FINANCIAL OFFERINGS TO THE LORD IN SUPPORT OF OUR MINISTRY

Please know that the last day to gift financial offerings to the ministry of St. Paul Lutheran Church and have them credited to this calendar year is Sunday, December 29, 2019.

Thanks be to God for the abundance of God's provision for all of creation. We respond with thanksgiving and gratitude in all ways.

CHRISTMAS DECORATING

Decorating the Church for the Celebration of Christ’s birth is an exciting and rewarding time. Your help is needed on Saturday, December 7, at 9:00 A.M. to raise the tree, hang the lights on the tree, put up wreaths, drape lights on the bushes outside and arrange the poinsettias. The more help we have, the quicker it will go. Remember to also mark your calendar for Saturday, January 11, at 9:00 A.M. when all the decorations need to be taken down and put away.

EPIPHANY MEAL

The Fellowship Ministry is planning a meal after the 9:30AM worship service on Sunday, January 5th, in the fellowship area. Food will be served around 11:00AM *so please join us!*

BIBLE STUDY

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

MEETS THE SECOND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH FROM 9-11 A.M.

The monthly Women's Bible Study Group will meet on Tuesday, December 10th, at 9:00 A.M. in our multipurpose room at church to discuss the December study titled, "Watch, Wait, Create." We will be discussing words from the book of Isaiah. The study is taken from the December issue of the Lutheran Women publication titled Gather. Copies of the study will be available. New members are always welcome. Call Kathy Olson at 868-3723 with any questions.

WEEKLY MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

MEETS EACH FRIDAY BEGINNING AT 8:30 A.M.

Please join or visit the St. Paul Men's Bible Study for fellowship and study in a relaxing atmosphere. We meet every Friday at 8:30 A.M. for breakfast and/or coffee and discussion. Contact Gary Jones at 651-271-9094 for location details.

BLANKET ANGELS

MEETS THE FIRST AND THIRD WEDNESDAYS OF EACH MONTH FROM 1-2 P.M.

"Angel blankets" are colorful, warm, very soft and cuddly (no two alike) fleece blankets made and distributed to individuals of all ages in Door County by the Blanket Angels group.

Join us this month on December 4th & 18th downstairs in the Fellowship Hall from 1-2 P.M. Materials are provided . . . no experience is necessary!! Bring scissors if you have them. Contact Wendy Graf for more information at 920-559-0160.

WOMEN'S SPIRITUAL GROWTH BIBLE STUDY

MEETS EACH THURSDAY ON SELECT WEEKS FROM 9-11 A.M.

Looking for a weekly opportunity to reflect on the Word and apply it to your own life? Then perhaps the Women's Spiritual Growth Group (aka Weekly Women's Bible Study) is for you! We meet on Thursdays from 9-11 A.M. at St. Paul in the upstairs meeting room. We are currently taking a break for the months of November and December but will start up again on Thursday, January 9th with a five-week study by John Ortberg called, "Who Is This Man: The Unpredictable Impact of the Inescapable Jesus." There is a companion book by the same name for anyone interested in some thought-provoking holiday reading.

Each week we will begin our session together with a short (10 minute) companion video that positions the week's discussion. Our topics will include:

- Session 1: The Man Who Won't Go Away
- Session 2: A Revolution of Humanity
- Session 3: The Power of Forgiveness
- Session 4: Why It's a Small World After All
- Session 5: Three Days That Changed the World

We will discover "how Jesus' influence has swept over history, bringing his inspiration to the fields of art, science, government, medicine, and education and how his vision for us to lead lives of dignity, compassion, forgiveness, and hope continues to inspire and challenge humanity today."

LUNCHEON

As we celebrate the gift of a new year, we also invite all women who have participated in this group or who might be interested in future studies to join us for a lunch at the White Gull Inn on Friday, January 3rd at 11:30. Please RSVP to Debbie Jones by Friday, December 27th.

Contact Debbie Jones:

E-Mail: debbie.jones.pmp@gmail.com

Telephone: 651-328-1261

SERVANTHOOD

VOLUNTEERING

It's December! Now is the time to sign up for ushering, reading, assisting the pastor or preparing communion elements. Serve as a family, get everyone involved. If you are unsure of what to do, or simply need a refresher, someone from the Worship & Music Committee would be glad to work with you. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the Narthex or call the church office.

COMMUNITY GIVING TREE

Come check it out! There is a "Giving Tree" in the narthex with ornaments highlighting opportunities to make a difference with a gift to those in need both nearby and far away. Please take an ornament from the tree. Each one has an explanation of a gift opportunity. You may bring items and place them under the Giving Tree or place the ornament, designating the recipient and your monetary gift, in an envelope to place in the offering plate at a worship service. Please consider including one of these "family members" in your holiday giving. Thank you for supporting our Community Giving.

BEING AN USHER

When Roy and I initially volunteered to usher, we were responding to a great need at St. Paul. Each week, Pastor would appeal to all members to sign up on the volunteer sheets. Well, we did sign up, had a brief overview of our role functions and filled in many gaps for the 8 A.M. service.

Then an amazing thing occurred while fulfilling our duties as ushers. We became PART of the service, not simply observers. Through our participation we have a greater appreciation for the flow of the entire process. In welcoming members as they arrive, we converse with so many more of our parish family than simply those in the pew in front or directly behind us. We are truly honored to serve in this capacity and do a small part of giving back to the Lord's house with a modest contribution of time.

Nothing is more satisfying than welcoming fellow parishioners with a smile, a greeting, a handshake, a hug, and the return response is simply so gratifying.

Roy & Terri Back

OTHER COMMUNITY NEEDS

The Boys and Girls Club of Door County has need of personal grooming and clothing supplies for their members as well as creative supplies for their after-school program. And, if you love to work with children, they are always looking for volunteer helpers.

Loaves and Fishes in Sturgeon Bay provide a weekly hot family-style meal year-round, served at NWTC. Funding for their work comes completely from the community — local churches, businesses and individuals. A gift of \$20 will feed five individuals.

SERVANTHOOD (CONT)

KIDNITS

Kidnits meets on Tuesday, December 3rd at 1:15 P.M. at church. There's yarn and needles-a-plenty available if you'd like to stop in to check out what knitting and crocheting is all about. Some busy women, who are unable to attend our monthly gatherings, knit and crochet at home and then bring in their finished items. Also, mark your calendar for the Christmas Kidnits luncheon on Tuesday, January 7th. Details to follow. Contact Betty Eisenhauer or Treiva Wilterding for more information — 920-868-5201.

PRAYER SHAWLS

Many thanks to those of you who responded to our request for prayer shawls! We now have some additions to our dwindling supply. As we move into the winter months, the demand for these gifts of comfort and prayer increases. We know the recipients are truly appreciative.

For those of you who have been blessed with the gift of knitting, here is a great opportunity to put those gifts to work (especially during these cold months)! The pattern is simple (just knits and purls). To obtain a copy of the instructions, stop by the credenza in the narthex or contact Debbie Jones (651-328-1261 or debbie.jones.pmp@gmail.com).

ELCA GOOD GIFTS

This program offers an opportunity to make a difference worldwide. Think of what a difference the gift of a herd of goats, or a flock of chicks, or a cow could mean to a community far away. Please contact Tom Prohl at tomprohl45@gmail.com for more information.

CONNECTIONS

What an exciting month as we welcome in the new church year, prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of Jesus into the world, and celebrate His arrival! Are you feeling excited or just overwhelmed? It is so easy to become distracted by the world's materialism that we can easily forget the message of the angels. "I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord." - Luke 2:10b-11. WOW, what a message!

As we pause to ponder, this amazing gift given for all people, let us, too, become messengers of great joy! "For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." - John 3:17

May all of our holiday busyness be grounded in sharing the Light and Love of Jesus' presence to a hurting world. Share the good news. "Joy to the world! The Lord has come!" Bring light to someone's life. May all people experience Emmanuel, God with us!

If you are aware of someone who could use some extra encouragement, you can also reach out to Pastor Frank or Debbie Jones (debbie.jones.pmp@gmail.com or 651-328-1261). The Connections Ministry team is available to share Christ's love to those who need a listening ear. They are also available to bring communion to those who have been unable to come to the Lord's table.

"Cease striving and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." - Psalm 46:10

SERVANTHOOD (CONT)

BELL RING THIS SEASON

With the holidays comes the sound of Salvation Army bell ringing. Proceeds of the Salvation Army red kettles will benefit Door County families and children. But help is needed to make those bells ring. St. Paul Congregation . . . in service to the community . . . PLEASE sign up to ring the Salvation Army bell for a 2-hour time slot. We will "ring the bell" at Main Street Market on Thursday, Dec. 19th and Friday, Dec 20th. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Please contact Pat Eggers with any questions at 414-305-3425 or foreversummersnow@yahoo.com.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Thank you to all who wrapped, shopped, packed and donated! Wow! **85 boxes** are on their way to brightening Christmas for less fortunate children. The most important part of this ministry is sharing the good news of Jesus with others and following in His commandment of "love your neighbor." A special thank you to Kimberly Church who acted as Head Elf for this very involved project!



FOOD PANTRY

Use the Advent calendar below for the food pantry this month. The food will be distributed as needed in the community. If you have questions either email or call Mary Anne Scherer 920-559-0165.

ADVENT CALENDAR

DEC 1 BOX OF CEREAL	DEC 2 PEANUT BUTTER
DEC 3 STUFFING MIX	DEC 4 BOXED POTATOES
DEC 5 MACARONI AND CHEESE	DEC 6 CANNED FRUIT
DEC 7 CANNED TOMATOES	DEC 8 CANNED TUNA
DEC 9 DESSERT MIX	DEC 10 JAR OF APPLESAUCE
DEC 11 CANNED SWEET POTATOES	DEC 12 CRANBERRY SAUCE
DEC 13 CANNED BEANS	DEC 14 BOX OF CRACKERS
DEC 15 PACKAGE OF RICE	DEC 16 PACKAGE OF OATMEAL
DEC 17 PACKAGE OF PASTA	DEC 18 SPAGHETTI SAUCE
DEC 19 CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP	DEC 20 TOMATO SOUP
DEC 21 CANNED CORN	DEC 22 CANNED MIXED VEGGIES
DEC 23 CANNED CARROTS	DEC 24 CANNED GREEN BEANS

GROWING & SERVING

CHRISTIAN WOMENS BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

MEETS THE THIRD TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH
APRIL THROUGH OCTOBER

Please join us at the *White Gull Inn* for a Christmas lunch on Friday, December 13th at noon. Contact Dolores Hermann 920-743-1675 if you can attend.

The group will not meet for discussion until next April. We have, however, selected our 2020 BOOK LIST. Please contact Dolores Hermann if you would like a copy. Read some of the selections, then plan to attend our first meeting on Tuesday, April 2, 2020 at 1 P.M. New members are welcome at any time.

GIBRALTAR SCHOOLS ANNUAL SENIOR CITIZEN HOLIDAY DINNER

Wednesday, December, 4th at 11:00 A.M. in the middle of the gym. Seating begins at 10:00 A.M. Guests will enjoy performances by the Gibraltar High School Band, 8th Grade Middle School Choir, Elementary Choir, and the new Honors Choir, Bella Voci.

The meal will include turkey with gravy, mashed potatoes, carrots, cranberries, and dessert. Seating is limited, so please place a reservation by leaving your name, phone number, and number of guests at 920-868-3284 ext. 244. Questions can be directed to Mary Witteborg, Student Council Advisor, at the same number. Drop off guests using the bus lane to the Elementary School entrance. Parking is available in the main lot by the secondary schools entrance. In the event of inclement weather and/or school cancellation, there will be no make-up date. Your Gibraltar Family looks forward to seeing you and sharing in the spirit of the holiday season.

CHURCH CHOIR

The choir meets for rehearsal every Wednesday at 6:00 P.M. If you have an interest, you are encouraged to come and help us, "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord." No prior choir experience necessary. You may wish to try things out by joining us as we prepare some Christmas anthems. Please contact Marifern Hill, Choir Director.



THE 2019/2020 CHURCH COUNCIL

Front Row: Karen Peterson, Betty Eisenhauer, Todd Rockway
Back Row: Tom Prohl, Jim Tyndall, Dave DeCock, Pastor Frank
Missing: Greg Ehlke

COUNCIL CONTACTS

Betty Eisenhauer, President	920-868-5043
	bettyeisenhauer1@gmail.com
Tom Prohl, Vice President	715-459-4914
	tomprohl45@gmail.com
Greg Ehlke, Treasurer	920-868-1092
	gregory.elhke@gmail.com
Dave DeCock, Secretary	920-868-1914
	decockfamily@gmail.com
Karen Peterson	920-868-2989
	maxwells@maxwellshousedc.com
Todd Rockway	847-738-4617
	todd.rockway@gmail.com
Jim Tyndall	920-868-3254
	jtyndall@hughes.net

**ALL SAINTS FEAST
NOVEMBER 3, 2019**

**THE NORDAHL
FAMILY**



**THE CROWD
GATHERS**



**THE
FELLOWSHIP
COMMITTEE**



**A TIME FOR WORSHIP: AS SAINT PAUL HOSTED THE NOVEMBER 12TH
MEETING OF PASTORS FROM THE GREEN BAY CONFERENCE OF THE
EAST CENTRAL SYNOD OF THE ELCA**

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – SUMMARY

St. Paul Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes-Summary November 18, 2019

Council Members Present: Todd Rockway, Betty Eisenhauer, Tom Prohl, Dave DeCock, Karen Peterson, Jim Tyndall, Pastor Frank. **Not Present:** Greg Ehlke. **Others Attending:** John & Dolores Hermann.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Tom Prohl at 6:30 pm.

Devotions: Dave DeCock provided an opening devotion and a prayer.

Community of Faith Report: 85 Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes are ready to ship, with several people donating money for the \$9/box shipping.

Ministry Reports are available in the church office.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Frank reported on the northeast synod pastors' meeting. He announced an opportunity in January for members to visit and attend a retreat at a mission church in Seguin, Texas.

Motion passed to accept eight new members. Plans for Advent and Christmas worship reviewed, as well as Giving Tree recipients.

Election of Officers: Resolution: Betty Eisenhauer, President; Tom Prohl, Vice President; Greg Ehlke, Treasurer; Dave DeCock, Secretary.

Old Business:

1. Due to ground saturation, Tom reported there has been a moratorium on new septic systems for 2019. Septic system and shed funding from Emergency Endowment Fund has been paid. Project to resume in spring of 2020.
2. Dave informed group that the ELCA will be formally notified of the constitution ratification.
3. Dave and Tom updated council on the sound system and hearing loop.
4. Betty summarized the proposed project of relocation of the Administrative Assistant's office to the adjoining Sunday school room. The changing congregation demographics have minimized the need for use of the room for Sunday school.
5. Financial report submitted by Greg for the records. October financial summary available to members on St. Paul website.

New Business:

1. Karen updated council on status of scholarship program with applications due November 30.
2. Composition of a new Local Benevolence Steering Committee discussed.
3. Betty addressed need for council, Pastor and ministries to establish 2020 objectives. Long range plan will be given priority at December meeting.
4. Dave will discuss record retention of minutes and reports with Administrative Asst.
5. To enable council secretary to fully participate in meetings, consideration will be given to having a non-council member take notes at council meetings.
6. Betty to contact Greg about a date/time for him to conduct a council financial briefing.
7. Betty and Pastor highlighted that they have contacted ministry leaders to conduct a self-assessment to determine if the groups are working well, what could be changed, combined, reconstituted, etc. With this information, council liaisons will be determined.
8. Pastor suggested council develop an annual events calendar, so things are not overlooked.
9. Betty brought up council meeting times. Agenda for December meeting: establish daytime meetings during the winter months.
10. Betty introduced a proposed project scope concept and document. The purpose of a project scope is to define the boundaries of projects, establish responsibilities, set timeframes, and communicate with other groups so work is not duplicated or unfinished. Communications ministry will review and then present to Council.

Adjournment with Lord's Prayer at 8:30 pm.

Next Council Meeting: Monday, December 16, 6:00 pm

Next Executive Meeting: Monday, December 9, 1pm

Respectfully submitted by Dave DeCock, Secretary

FINANCIAL SUMMARY



- FYTD = Fiscal Year-to-Date. St. Paul Lutheran’s fiscal year begins on 01-Oct.
- The 2019-20 fiscal full year Offerings budget is \$240,000.
- Regular Offerings in the first month of the current fiscal year were higher than the comparable prior year period by \$749 ($\$12,372 - \$11,623 = \749) but well below one-twelfth of the full year budgeted amount ($\$240,000$ divided by 12 months = \$20,000).
- Ministry Expenses for the month of October, 2019 were slightly lower, but not substantially different, than the comparable prior year monthly total ($\$17,273 - \$17,702 = \$429$ lower)

About Online Giving

You can join many of our members who manage their giving to Our Lord online. It is strictly voluntary, easy and allows you to set up automatic recurring contributions. You can view your complete online giving history from anywhere you have internet access. To set up your account, simply follow these easy steps:

- Visit the church website at: www.stpaul Lutheranjuddville.360unite.com
- Click on the “Give Online” button at the bottom of the Home page.
- Click on the “Create Profile” button; then
- Follow the onscreen instructions to create an online profile and schedule your recurring contributions.

The secure online giving application is provided through *Vanco Payments Solutions* and is used by ELCA congregation nationwide.



ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8am Worship 9:30am Worship Advent Begins	2	3 1:15pm KIDNITS Knitting Grp	4 11am Gibraltar Holiday Lunch 1pm Blanket Angels Grp Poinsettia Deliveries 6pm Advent Worship 6:45pm Choir Practice	5	6 8:30am Men's Bible Study]	7
8 8am Worship 9:30am Worship	9 1pm Executive Council Mtg	10 9am Monthly Women's Bible Study	11 10am Communications/Tech Ministry 1pm Worship/Music Ministry 6pm Advent Worship 6:45pm Choir Practice	12	13 8:30am Men's Bible Study 12pm Book Club Christmas Lunch	14
15 8am Worship 9:30am Worship	16 6:30pm Church Council Mtg.	17	18 1pm Blanket Angels Grp 6pm Advent Worship 6:45pm Choir Practice	19	20 8:30am Men's Bible Study	21 Epistle News Deadline
22 8am Worship 9:30am Worship	23	24 5:30pm Christmas Eve Worship 7:30pm Christmas Eve Worship	25 9:30am Christmas Day Worship	26	27 Epistle Mailed 8:30am Men's Bible Study	28
29 8am Worship 9:30am Worship	30	31	1 Happy New Year	2	3 8:30am Men's Bible Study 11:30pm Women's Spiritual Growth Group Luncheon	4

Please go to our website for changes and the most current calendar events:
<https://stpaul LutheranJuddville.360unite.com/calendar>