

St. Paul's Epistle

Monthly Newsletter

www.stpaulsosseo.org

December 2023

The angel said to them, "Don't be afraid! I have good news for you, a message that will fill everyone with joy. Today your Savior, Christ the Lord, was born in David's city" (Luke 2:10-11 GW).

Greetings to you, in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,

The following is from a devotion that was written by Luther:

"No matter where you're reading in the Bible, faith is the first mystery you should recognize. Faith is not believing that the story you're reading is true as written. That does nothing for anyone. Even unbelievers can believe this Bible story about Jesus' birth is true. Faith is not a natural work apart from God's grace, as the Scripture clearly teaches. Rather the right kind of faith, the kind that flows from grace and that God's Word demands, is firmly believing that Christ was born for you. His birth is yours and occurred for your benefit.

"For the gospel teaches that Christ was born for our benefit and that everything he did and suffered was for us. As the angel says here, "I have good news for you, a message that will fill everyone with joy. Today your Savior, Christ the Lord, was born in David's city." With these words, you can clearly see that he was born for all of us.

"He doesn't say, "a Savior was born," but rather "your Savior, Christ the Lord, was born." In the same way, he doesn't say, "I have good news," rather "I have good news for you." For you! "I have good news for you, a message that will fill everyone with joy." This joy is for everyone who has this kind of faith."

Christ truly was born for you! Embrace that truth as we gather to worship our Savior, Christ the Lord!

4th Sunday in Advent

December 24th at 10:00a

Christmas Eve Service

December 24th at 4:00p

Christmas Day Service with Communion

December 25th at 10:00a

Let us pray: O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

In Christ,

Pastor Burns

Romans 1:16

Remember in your prayers:

Members who are sick and in need of healing

and comfort Leah Pitts, Jered Glauvitz (Nephew of Dave & Erik Glauvitz), Derrick Doyle (son of Shirley Scheuble), Nancy Kitzman, Clarice O'Gary, Bruce Hecksel, Chad Hanson, Dan Wolinski (friend of Jason Voss), Pauline Williamson & Toni Susiy (friends of Shirley Scheuble), Jim Feuerstein (brother of Judy Opsal), Ada Fields (sister-in-law of Shirley Scheuble), Lawrence & Joanne Mendez (parents of Sherry Glauvitz) and Melissa Lee. Our Lord Jesus, who reached out to heal and comfort the sick and dying, continues to reach out with His healing Word through us. Cards, phone calls and prayers are always appreciated. If you know of someone who is sick or hospitalized, please inform Pastor Burns.

Our Homebound Members are Alice Leitzke, Gladys Goerke, Irma Schmid, Clarice O'Gary, Jean Henderson, Rose Ebert, Melissa Lee, and Bertha Hannu (mother of Barb Gamache).

Our Troops who are serving abroad and here in the United States. For their safety and for those they are fighting for and against.

For the families of those who have lost their lives or were injured in the fight for freedom.

For persecuted Christians everywhere.

For those serving in the mission field

Lutheran Bible Translators, Johanna Heidorn and Rev. Dr. Daniel Jastram.

For peace and reconciliation world wide.

For our nation, President Biden and the leadership of the United States.

For our state, Governor Walz and the leadership of the state of Minnesota.

Staff: Pastor: Daniel Burns XXX.XXX.XXXX
Email: XXXXX@stpaulsosseo.org

Administrative Assistant: Sherry Glauvitz
Email: office@stpaulsosseo.org

St. Paul's Website: www.stpaulsosseo.org

Those Serving December 2023

Elders

Dec. 3	8:00a	Brad Kitzman
	10:30a	Bill McKibbin
Dec. 6	7:00ap	Adam Schmidt
Dec. 10	8:00a	Brad Kitzman
	10:30a	Bill McKibbin
Dec. 13	7:00p	Adam Schmidt
Dec. 17	10:30a	Rick Scheevel
Dec. 20	7:00p	Adam Schmidt
Dec 24	10:00a	TBD
	4:00p	TBD
Dec. 25	10:00a	TBD
Dec. 31	10:00a	Rick Scheevel

Ushers

Dec. 3	8:00a	Allison Hanson
	10:30a	Justen Jones
Dec. 10	8:00a	Slack Family
	10:30a	Arnie & Lynette Jensen
Dec. 17	10:30a	Marlin Olson Family
Dec. 24	10:00a	Marlin Olson Family
	4:00p	Marlin Olson Family
Dec. 25	10:00a	Marlin Olson Family
Dec. 31	10:00s	Slack Family

Acolyte

Dec. 3	8:00a	Tyler Hanson
	1:30a	TBD
Dec. 24	10:00a	TBD
Dec. 25	10:00a	TBD
Dec. 31	10:00a	TBD

Media

Dec.	David Gamache
	David Glauvitz
	Jacob Andersen
	Sherry Glauvitz

If you would like to place flowers on the altar please call the Church Office 763.425.2238.

2&1 Club

We will be pausing our monthly 2&1 Club gathering for the busy month of December, as we prepare for Christmas. We will gather again in January for our annual dinner at Dehn's Supper Club and White Elephant gift exchange. We pray you all have a wonderful Christmas season, and many blessings in the New Year!

Pop machine is now working!!

All the profits from the pop machine go to the Youth. \$1.00 for water and pop

CHRISTMAS CHOIR

We would like to have a choir for both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. We would LOVE to have anyone who would like to join- of ANY singing skill! We will be singing familiar, easy Christmas anthems to add to our services. Practices will begin after Advent Service on December 6 and run through our last Advent Service on December 20. We will sing on Christmas Eve (4:00p Service) and Christmas Day (10:00a Service). Contact Esther Burns with any questions!

Church Council and Congregational Meeting minutes are available in print or digital copies can be sent. Just call the office for a copy.

Account Balances: (As of 9/30/2023)

Checking	\$2,843
Savings:	
Savings	\$20,270
Columbarium	\$ 7,579
Subtotal Savings	\$27,848
Scholarship	\$ 4,113
Total	\$34,804

DECEMBER Birthdays

12/02 Mike Schulz	12/16 Jack Schue
12/05 Christopher Braidey	12/17 Monroe Haslach-
12/05 Colton Opsal	Burns
12/06 Debbie Larson	12/18 Alycia Geissler
12/07 Shelly Collins	12/19 Joe Iten
12/07 Lee Sunram	12/19 Kim Kruzel
12/09 Arnie Jensen	12/22 Rollie Rambow
12/12 Dwayne Lieder	12/23 Brenna Jones
12/13 Allison Hanson	12/24 Carrie Braiedy
12/13 Roxy Garcia Hardy	12/26 Andrew Coenen
12/14 Erik Thoemke	12/29 Becky Berndt
12/14 Grace Voss	12/30 Layla Saelee
21/16 Mary McCullough	12/30 Hank Tuttle
	12/31 Ethan Burns

DECEMBER Anniversaries

Tim & Jean Jones	12/7	49 years
Marlin & Leah Olson	12/10	29 years

If your birthday or anniversary is missing, please let the office know.

Newsletter Mailing Team please come to help on Thursday Dec. 28 at 9:15a. Anyone who can help fold, stick labels on and sort is welcome. Coffee and treats provided.



Mite Box Sundays: December 3, 2023

Mite donations can be mailed to Sandy Slack, 11430 98th Ave N, Maple Grove, MN 55369. Checks should be written out to “St. Paul’s LWML.” Those attending church services in person may place their Mite Box Mission donations in the large Mite Box in the narthex.

**During November, the members of St. Paul’s donated \$233.00
for Mite Box Mission Grants!**

Many thanks!

Sharing Christ’s gifts with those in need!

Orphan Grain Train Servant Center / Goal: \$100,000

<https://www.lwml.org/2023-2025-mission-grant-1>

Orphan Grain Train (OGT) touches millions of lives around the world by shipping donated food, clothing, medical supplies, and other needed items to people in the U.S. and seventy other countries. This Lutheran volunteer network always tries to work through the church, so the Gospel accompanies the assistance given. Funds will support a new project at the Norfolk, Nebraska site. The Mercy Meals packaging area will be expanded, allowing more resources to be under one roof and increasing the number of meals from five million to more than ten million a year.

By clicking on the above website, you can access more information about Orphan Grain Train and view six photos. Millions of people across our country and around the world thank you for your generosity.

Newborn Kits and Hospice Kits: We will be assembling kits on February 11. Start looking for items to complete the kits. Items can be dropped off at church any time.

Save the Date for the 30th Biennial LWML MN South District Convention. The convention will occur **June 20-22, 2024 in Mankato** at the Mayo Clinic Health System Event Center, the former Verizon Wireless Center. The convention’s theme is **Walk in Love, based on “...As Christ loved us and gave himself up for us...” Ephesians 5:1-2** Conventions are an exciting time. New Mite Box Mission grants are selected, Bible study is prominent, hearing from previous Mite Box grant recipients, the singing, the worship, the laughter, the hugs...

Our Pastor Burns is one of the LWML MN South District Pastoral Counselors. He, along with Rev. Matthew Lehmann, will be planning the worship service. **All women of our church are invited and encouraged to attend.**

**Please join us at our next Business Meeting on Wednesday, December 13, at 1:30p
in the Party Room at Mary Patrice Apartments, 100 3rd St. NW, Osseo, MN**



In GriefShare: Surviving the Holidays, we learn that Christmas is a holiday of suffering. If there was no suffering in this world, then there would be no need for Christ. As we celebrated our remembrance of the first coming of Christ, we remembered why He came: to go to the cross to pay the price for our sins. It is through His death and resurrection that we have the forgiveness of our sins and the free gift of eternal life. But even while we know this truth, we still mourn those who have gone before us.

The journey from mourning to joy shouldn't be walked alone. That's why there's Grief Share.

Starting in January, I will be leading GriefShare classes every Thursday evening at 6:30p in the Youth Room. Classes will begin on January 4th. There will be 13 classes. The dates for the classes will be on our website (stpaulsosseo.org) and in the church calendar.

Please contact the church office to register 763.425.2238 or office@stpaulsosseo.org

These classes are open to all. I pray that many who are mourning will be able to find healing through Christ.

TOYS FOR CROSS

The Sunday School teachers and kids are hosting a toy drive for CROSS this year and would appreciate the congregation's help. A tree will be set up in the narthex starting on November 19. We are asking for new, unwrapped presents for kids 0 to 10 years of age and \$30 gift cards for kids 11 to 18 years. CROSS has suggested that the gift cards be from Target or Walmart.

There will be ornaments on the tree that you can take as a reminder, but you do not need to have an ornament to bring a gift. The tree will be in the narthex through Sunday, December 17.

CROSS gave out presents to over 1200 kids last year. Let's help them make Christmas merrier for families in our area that are in need.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS FOR DECEMBER 2023

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

Blessings to all of you during this joyous Christmas season. As we prepare for the birth of our Savior, make time in your busy schedule to do the Advent devotions with your family that were passed out to the Sunday School kids on November 19. Remind them that Christmas is more than decorating and getting presents. Baby Jesus is indeed the best gift that we receive.

LESSONS

We are making gifts for the shut-ins on November 26. On December 3, we have a lesson on Elijah. We will be practicing for the program on December 10.

There will be no Sunday School on December 24 and December 31.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Christmas program is on Sunday, December 17, during the 10:30 service. There will be no early service that day. There will be a luncheon following the program.

Practices are on Saturday, December 9, from 9:30 to 11:00, and December 16 from 9:30 to 12:00. On the 16th, we will be having pizza and cupcakes to celebrate Jesus' birthday. Please make sure your kids have their parts memorized by the first practice.

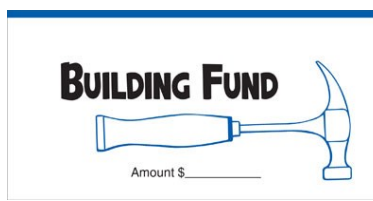
OFFERINGS

Our offerings in December are going to CROSS.

We collected 125 pounds of groceries during our Food Drive for CROSS. Thanks so much for your generosity.

The Sunday School kids are hosting a toy drive for CROSS from November 19 through December 17. We are collecting new toys for kids from 0 to 10 and \$30 gift cards from Target or Walmart for the older kids. You can place your donations under the tree in the narthex. Last year they gave out gifts to 1200 kids. Let's help them make Christmas merrier for the families in need in our community. CROSS is asking for volunteers to help pass out toys and stock shelves Monday through Friday from November 28 through December 21. If you are interested in this volunteer opportunity, contact the CROSS office at XXX.XXX.XXXX or go to their website at crossservices.org.

Happy Birthday Jesus!



God has blessed Saint Paul's Lutheran Church for over 150 years with faithful members who love their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In the Church, as well as in our households, there are times that can be challenging. Saint Paul's is facing this right now. But instead of looking at this being difficult, we would like to look at this as an opportunity for our congregation to grow in our faith and our Christian Stewardship.

Our building is over 70 years old. With that comes routine maintenance. Last year, we had many projects that were completed: We updated our outside lighting with LED fixtures that will bring savings in the future with our electric bill. We updated the drinking fountain in the basement by the bathrooms. And, we had a costly repair to the boiler system, which has brought more efficient use of energy for heating the church. Last month we had the gas leak that led to an unexpected repair to our gas line.

All of these projects were funded through our Building Fund in the Savings Account. We would like to encourage every member to help us in rebuilding our Building Fund. After all, with an old building, we know that others items can and will come up in the future. So, we want to be ready by having a strong and robust Building Fund.

Please consider giving a special gift to the Building Fund. This gift should be above and beyond your normal giving to the church.

And, with the end of the year approaching, you can assist us in having a strong and robust Building Fund with a special year-end gift to the "Building Fund." **This would be a great opportunity to maximize your year-end tax deductible giving for 2023.**

A festive holiday concert poster for the North Suburban Concert Band. The background is a dark green with gold stars and a string of colorful lights at the top. Two gold bells are tied with a red ribbon. The text is in gold and white. It announces a collaborative holiday concert on Sunday, December 10th, at Champlin Park High School. The poster is divided into two sections: "Holiday Jazz Café" from 3:00-3:45pm and "Main Concert" from 4:00-5:45pm. It lists the featured groups for each and provides ticket prices. A small Santa Claus figure is on the left. At the bottom, there are candles and poinsettias. A tag on the right lists where tickets can be purchased.

North Suburban Concert Band
presents
**BELLS WILL
BE RINGIN'**
A Collaborative Holiday Concert
Sunday, December 10th
Champlin Park High School
6025 109th Ave N, Champlin, MN 55316

Holiday Jazz Café
3:00-3:45pm
Featuring:
North Suburban Jazz Band
North Suburban Vocal Jazz Ensemble
Meet Santa and Mrs. Claus!

Main Concert
4:00 - 5:45 pm
Featuring:
North Star Boys Choir
North Suburban Christmas Chorale
North Suburban Concert Band

TICKETS
Adults (18+) = \$10 (\$15 at the door)
Students (11-17) = \$7 (\$10 at the door)
Children (3-10) = \$5
Children (0-2) = FREE

Find us on Facebook, Instagram, and our
website northsuburbanconcertband.org.

Tickets can be purchased:
- From band/chorale members
- Online at northsuburbanconcertband.org
- By mailing payment to
12050 Stoneridge Road
Dayton, MN 55327
(Make checks out to NSCB)
- At the door (\$5 more for ages 11+)

Hymn Studies With Esther- December 2023

***All information taken from Lutheran Service Book- Companion to the Hymns, published by Concordia Publishing House**

The Hymn: Silent Night, Holy Night (LSB 363)

The Author: Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848) Music: Franz Gruber (1787-1863)

Many of us know the story of the origination of the beloved hymn, Silent Night. But it is such a good story that I wanted to share it in this month's Hymn Study:

On December 24, 1818, Joseph Mohr, the curate at St. Nicholas Church at Oberndorf, gave a poem to Franz Gruber, the organist. He requested that it be set to suitable music for two solo voices and choir with guitar accompaniment. It is thought that he requested the guitar because the organ was in need of repair and was not able to be used.

Gruber, on the very same evening, gave the simple composition Mohr. The copy of the enclosed original was sung that same night with much success. The singers that evening were Joseph Mohr on the upper voice, which carried the melody, and Franz Gruber on the lower part. A choir echoed the final two phrases at the conclusion of each stanza.

The first stanza originally read:

Silent Night! Holy Night!

All are sleeping, only the dear

Holy couple keeps its lonely watch;

Sweet boy with curly hair,

Sleep in Heavenly peace!

Sleep in Heavenly peace!

Gruber made several arrangements of the carol. Those whose manuscripts have survived may be seen on the website of the Stille Nacht Gesellschaft (www.stillenacht.at).

Many of us also know of the famous truce on Christmas Eve, 1914. On that night, soldiers from both sides of the war climbed out of their trenches, shook hands and sang Silent Night together. For a short time that night, there was peace.

When are we singing this hymn? This hymn will be sung on Christmas Eve, by candlelight, as is our tradition as well as tradition of many churches.

Youth Fundraiser

With The Prairie Beading Buddies from South Dakota



The Prairie Beading Buddies are a group of six ranging in age from 85-96. They live in an assisted living situation in South Dakota, and they love to get together and make these bracelets. The money they make off these bracelets helps them choose from the A La Carte services the facility offers. Such as: laundry service, round-trip escorting, delivered meals, additional housekeeping services, beauty salon and barber shop.

The Youth will have a table set up Dec. 3 with a variety of bracelets to choose from. Each bracelet has a tag with the Prairie Beading Buddies name on it that made it. Get some of your Christmas shopping done and let's show these lovely ladies, and one man in the group, some love!



LWML has begun collecting items needed for the Hospice and Newborn Kits for Global Health Ministries. Items can be placed in the basket in the Narthex. The goal is to assemble kits on February 11.

One Hospice Kit contains these items:

- 1 regular-size bath towel (approx. 52" long), new or gently used
- 1 washcloth, new or gently used (not microfiber)
- 1 bath-size bar unscented soap, such as Dove Unscented for Sensitive Skin, in original packaging
- 1 toothbrush, in original, individual packaging
- 1 pick-style comb
- 1 nail clipper, Larger size preferred
- 6 Band-Aids, rubber-banded together
- 1 jar or tube of pure petroleum jelly, such as Vaseline/Approx. 4 ounces, lid taped
- 1 pair heavy-duty household gloves/Kitchen type, size medium

For one Newborn Kit use new or gently used items

- 1 regular-size bath towel (approx. 52" long)
- 1 washcloth (not microfiber)
- 1 bath-size bar white Ivory soap, *in original packaging*
- 1 newborn cotton t-shirt or "onesie"
Size 0-3, or newborn
- 1 newborn stocking hat/*Small size, a newborn's head is about 14" circumference*
- 1 baby receiving blanket (approx. 30" x 30")
Cotton or light flannel, knit or crocheted
- 2 cloth diapers
- 2 diaper pins

The Measure of Our Generosity

If you open up the Small Catechism, you'll find a shortened version of the Third Commandment: "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy." But if you look up the list of the Ten Commandments in Exodus, you'll find the full version:

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. (Ex. 20:8–11)

Why did Luther shorten this commandment for the Small Catechism? Was it so that the kids wouldn't have so much to memorize? No, it was because Luther knew that all the details of the Third Commandment were part of the "shadow" of the Old Testament (Col. 2:16). Or as St. Paul puts it, there is "letter" in the Old Testament law and "spirit" (2 Cor. 3:6). The details of not working on Saturday were fulfilled by Christ. That part of the Sabbath regulation no longer applies. But the spirit of the law does remain: We need to dedicate sufficient time each week to hearing God's Word and giving it honor and respect. Or as Luther sums it up in the Small Catechism's explanation to the Third Commandment: "We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it."

The same sort of analysis applies to our giving. In the Old Testament, God commanded the Israelites to give a tenth of their income to the Levites so that those men could dedicate their lives to serving in God's house, teaching the people, conducting worship, etc. In the New Testament, there is a rigid requirement listed about handing in your tax forms to church to make sure you've given enough. But the mandate to have a full-time ministry, which is the spirit of that law concerning tithing to the Levites, is right there in 1 Corinthians 9:14: "The Lord has ordained that those who preach the Gospel should make their living from the Gospel."

The New Testament church's job is significantly larger than the job of Old Testament Israel. We are commanded to preach the Gospel to all nations. There was only the temple to maintain in the Old Testament, but we have churches, schools, universities and seminaries, plus missionaries everywhere. So you tell me: Can we really undertake the work of the ministry if our giving doesn't even measure up to Old Testament levels of generosity?

LCMS Stewardship Ministry – lcms.org/stewardship



763.425.2238

December 2023

office@stpaulsosse.org

Sun

Mon

Tues

Wed

Thur

Fri

Sat

							1	2	
							Office Closed		
3 1st Sunday in Advent Communion Service 8:00a Education Hour 9:15a Communion Service 10:30a Church Decorating 11:30a Mite Box <i>Shooting Starz 3:00p-8:00p</i>	4 Staff Meeting 10:30a	5 Bible Study 9:15a Morning Prayer Service 10:15a	6 Midweek Advent 1 Confirmation 6:00p Worship Service 7:00p	7			8	9	Christmas Program Rehearsal 9:30a-11:00a
10 2nd Sunday in Advent Worship Service 8:00a Education Hour 9:15a Worship Service 10:30a	11 Staff Meeting 10:30a	12 Bible Study 9:15a Morning Prayer Service 10:15a Board of Elders 6:30p All Other Boards 7:00p Council Meeting 7:30p	13 Midweek Advent 2 LWML Business Meeting 1:30p Confirmation 6:00p Worship Service 7:00p	14			15	16	Christmas Program Rehearsal 9:30a-12:00p
							Office Closed Newsletter Deadline		
17 3rd Sunday in Advent Education Hour 9:15a Sunday School Christmas Program 10:30a Luncheon 11:30a	18 Staff Meeting 10:30a	19 Bible Study 9:15a Morning Prayer Service 10:15a	20 Midweek Advent 3 Worship Service 7:00p	21			22	23	
							Office Closed		
24 4th Sunday in Advent Worship Service 10:00a Christmas Eve Worship Service 4:00p	25 Christmas Day Communion Service 10:00a	26 Office Closed	27	28			29	30	
				Newsletter Team 9:15a			Office Closed		
31 1st Sunday after Christmas Communion Service 10:00a									



MERRY CHRISTMAS



ST. PAUL'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH
OSSEO, MINNESOTA

December 2023

St. Paul's Lutheran
710 East Broadway Street
Osseo Minnesota 55369
Office Telephone: 763.425.2238



Non-Profit Organ.

Postage Paid

Permit #7

Osseo, MN 55369

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