



NEWSLETTER



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Contact

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* OFFICE HOURS *

St. Paul's, Tuesdays, 9–11:30 a.m.
 Trinity, Wednesdays, 9–11:30 a.m.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
 109 W State St., Plankinton SD 57368
 www.stpaulplankinton.com
 605-942-7364

Elders Justin Everson
 Curt Guindon
 Mike Tuschen

President Rodney Weber

LWML President ... Marlene Johnson

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
 304 S Johnston St., White Lake SD 57383
 www.trinitywhitelake.com
 facebook.com/trinitywhitelake
 605-249-2333

Elders David Bogenhagen
 Dan Guericke
 Scott Meier

President Dean Suelflow

LWML Presidents Diana Kieffer
 Hope Circle
 Brianna Bogenhagen
 Ruth Circle



St. Paul's Lutheran Church and Trinity Lutheran Church are members of the South Dakota District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.



December 2024

Divine Worship Service Schedule for December

Divine Services at Trinity 8:30 a.m.
 Divine Services at St. Paul's 10:30 a.m.
 Joint Children's Christmas Eve at Trinity, 6 p.m. "This Is My Son"
 Christmas Day at St. Paul's, 10 a.m.
 Starting January 5, 2025, service times will be switched, with St. Paul's at 8:30 a.m. and Trinity's at 10:30 a.m.

Christian Education

Bible Study – Trinity, Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m.
 St. Paul's, Thursdays, 10 p.m.
Confirmation Classes — St. Paul's, Tuesdays, 6 p.m.
 Trinity, TBD
St. Paul's Sunday School — Sundays 9:30 a.m.
Trinity Release-Time — Wednesdays, 2:15 p.m.
Trinity Wednesday School — Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m.

Lutheran Women's Missionary League

Trinity Ruth Circle – Tuesday, December 3, 2024, 1 p.m.
Trinity Hope Circle – Tuesday, December 3, 2024, 2 p.m.
St. Paul's Dorcas Circle – Sat., December 7, 2024, 12 noon

Serving the Lord's Church in DECEMBER

TRINITY	ST. PAUL'S
Elder Scott Meier	Elder Mike Tuschen
Ushers Ben Bogenhagen Ron Steffen	Ushers Lennis Titze Howard Weischedel
Acolyte Brant Bogenhagen	Acolyte Blake Everson
Altar Barb Gilbertz	Altar Deb Haak
	Greeters See page 3.

Scripture Readings for Sundays in November

Dec 1 Jeremiah 33:14–16; 1 Thes. 3:9–13; Luke 19:28–40
 Dec. 8 Malachi 3:1–7b; Philippians 1:2–11; Luke 3:1–14
 Dec. 15 Zephaniah 3:14–20; Philippians 4:4–7; Luke 7:18–28
 Dec. 22 Micah 5:2–5a; Hebrews 10:5–10; Luke 1:39–45
 Dec. 29 Exodus 12:1–3a, 11–15; Col. 3:12–17; Luke 2:22–40

The **January 2025 newsletter** will be available on or after December 29, 2024. Articles are due Friday, December 27, 2024.

Please send newsletter/bulletin items to Nancy Bogenhagen at trinitywlsd@gmail.com. **Weekly bulletin deadline is Thursday noon.** Please email me if you prefer your newsletter emailed to you. Thank you!



Advent, A Preparatory Time of Waiting and Watching

Here comes that really busy time of the year once again. People are making plans and preparing for lots of things. As we get ready for Advent and Christmas, we should remember the story of Mary and Martha. You know the story in Luke 10:38-42. Martha was so concerned about preparations that she didn't have time to sit and listen to Jesus. While preparing dinner for Jesus and others was a very good thing to do, it was much more important to be listening to Jesus. Jesus told Martha that it was Mary who had chosen what is the one important thing and it would not be taken away from her.

Of course, God expects us to be busy taking care of many things all year long. That is normal. In fact, God tells us to work to take care of our family. I Timothy 5:8 says, *But if anyone does not provide for his own relatives, especially his own family, he is worse than an unbeliever.* God expects His people to work. But the most important thing is to, as Paul said, grow in the grace and the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

During Thanksgiving, Christians remember the One to whom we are giving thanks, Christ Jesus our Lord. During Advent and Christmas, we know that the reason for these seasons is for us to be thinking of Jesus' three comings into the world. They are **His coming to the world at His birth, His coming into our own lives by faith, and His coming on the last day when He will take believers to Heaven.** Each of these three comings of Jesus to us show the great love that God has for each of us.

That is why believers are so thankful for what He has done for us. That is why we say just after we have received the Lord's Supper, *Oh give thanks unto the Lord for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever* (Psalm 107:1 LSB pg 200). In the Lord's Supper, Jesus gives us a foretaste of the feast to come in Heaven. As we begin our preparations for Advent and Christmas, may we always remember the preparations our God made for us in the suffering, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus.

In being ready for Jesus return for judgment, Jesus reminds us to be awake and alert. Luke 21:34-36 says, *"Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap. For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man."*

Pastor McKillop

*Christ
IS Coming!*



MAIN STREET LIVING DECEMBER 2024

All programs are interpreted and closed-captioned for the hearing impaired. For more information visit:

www.mainstreetliving.com

Broadcast on KDLT (NBC) channels 5.1 / 46.1

December 1, 2024

10 a.m. "Stable Boy" A manger scene comes to life and tells the story of the first Christmas.

10:30 a.m. Rev. Marcus Ring, pastor at St. John Lutheran Church in Gregory, presents a message titled "The LORD Is Our Righteousness." The sermon is based on Jeremiah 33:14-16.

December 8, 2024

10 a.m. "Red Boots Christmas" A shoemaker learns the true meaning of Christmas.

10:30 a.m. Rev. Thomas Penrod, pastor at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Gettysburg, presents a message titled "Preparing for Christ's Arrival." The sermon is based on Luke 3:3.

December 15, 2024

10 a.m. "Christmas Is" The shepherd in a Christmas play learns the importance of Christmas.

10:30 a.m. - Rev. James Travis, pastor at Calvary Lutheran Church in Sioux City, IA, presents a message titled "Flag on the Play." The sermon is based on Philippians 4:2-7.

December 22, 2024

10 a.m. "Christmas on Main Street" The Christmas message at a mission brings a grandson and his grandfather together.

10:30 a.m. Rev. Matthew Harrison, President of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, presents a Christmas message.

December 29, 2024

10 a.m. "Puzzle Club Christmas" The Puzzle Club must solve a missing person mystery before Christmas.

10:30 a.m. Rev. David Strable, pastor at Holy Cross, Trinity, and Immanuel Lutheran Churches in Onida, Blunt, & Harrold, presents a message titled "Waiting." The sermon is based on Luke 2:25.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

DECEMBER 2024

<i>Howard & Sharon Weischedel, SP</i>	Dec. 1
Nehvin Rana, TR	Dec. 2
Bailey Anthony, SP	Dec. 3
Pastor Don McKillop (70)	Dec. 4
Mindi Rana, TR	Dec. 4
Jenna Haak, SP	Dec. 5
Andrea Morenz, SP	Dec. 10
Ann Borgmann, TR	Dec. 10
Marilyn Markhardt, TR	Dec. 12
Larry Hoffman, SP	Dec. 12
<i>Collin & Anastasia Borgmann, TR</i>	Dec. 12
Kris Guindon, SP	Dec. 13
Billie Madsen, SP	Dec. 13
Tessa Overweg, SP	Dec. 17
Robert Fink, SP	Dec. 17
Carol Schaefer, SP	Dec. 18
Brent Morenz, SP	Dec. 21
Alexandra Heismeyer, SP	Dec. 21
Sandy Tuschen, SP	Dec. 22
Lindsay Zobrist, TR	Dec. 22
Ruth Merrill, SP	Dec. 23
Rachal Byrd, TR	Dec. 25
Blake Bogenhagen, TR	Dec. 26
Katrina Keultjes, TR	Dec. 28
Doug VandenHoek, TR	Dec. 29
David Bogenhagen, TR	Dec. 30



ST. PAUL'S GREETERS

12/01	Curt/Kathy Guindon
12/08	Peg Hoffman
12/15	Marv Jira
12/22	Lennis/Sandy Titze
12/29	Josh/Ferra Kemp



WORD FROM THE CENTER

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. (1 Thessalonians 5:16–18)

A BATTLE OF WILLS!

The amazing proclamation of the Bible is that the person and work of Jesus in history stands as the concrete expression of the will of God the Father for all people. Out of His love for us, He sent His Son into this sinful world to save it. Amazingly too, God's only Son, the second person of the Trinity, co-equal to the Father, submitted His will to that of the Father so that the world might be saved, even though his incarnate life would be sacrificed on a cross in our place. These amazing facts are proclaimed each year beginning in the seasons of Advent and Christmas. We hear once again about that night long ago in a small nowhere town called Bethlehem where Christ is born of Mary. *"She gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger"* (Luke 2:7).

So, what is the enduring message of this Christmas event? Is it merely some gentle notion of a mythological, fictitious, or idealistic goodwill toward men? Or is it rather the Good News of God ENACTING His will in the world, albeit a will of service, sacrifice, unconditional love and salvation? For we who believe, it is the latter. We believe that God's enacted and embodied will in Jesus Christ calls our will to unconditional repentance before Him. This message asserts that eternal, abundant life can be found only in our relationship with God in and through Jesus. This message, which often seems like folly to our human will, is the *power of God unto salvation for all who believe* (Romans 1:16).

"Yet not what I will, but what You will" (Mark 14:36). Those words of Jesus, spoken just before His arrest during Holy Week, truly convey the message of Christmas, Good Friday, and Easter. His mindset of service (Philippians 2:5-8) led to the events of salvation. Jesus "the Messiah" was born in the flesh to accomplish our salvation through His life, death, and resurrection. Promise made

(e.g., Genesis 3:15); promise fulfilled. Because of THAT WILL revealed in history once and for all, true, lasting, and eternal life became possible for a world mired in sin and death.

In fact, the message of Christmas is even more amazing if you understand the breadth of the rebellious conflict that humanity has with its Creator, a real conflict of wills. The joy of Christmas gives way to the anguish of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. Christ's "not what I will, but what You will" life is offered to God so that willful, rebellious people might be saved. It alone brings pardon to the guilty and life to those who are dead in the arrogance of their prideful, sinful will.

Today, the chaos of a sinful "my own will" world remains in plain sight all around us. Who could have imagined the violence in our neighborhoods, the sexual confusion of our children, the brokenness of our relationships, and the addictions of our hopelessness? Amidst that reality, **let the Advent season of 2024 draw you to the God who willfully sent His Son into this world for people like you and me.** Let that message take root in your heart through the very Word and Sacraments of the Savior who comes into the midst of our struggles so that we might be saved. Those words of Jesus, "Yet not what I will, but what You will," are a call to repentance for us, but, more so, they are a call to joy, thankfulness, and a peace that passes all understanding because, as our lesson says, "this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus."

PRAYER: Dear Lord Jesus, it seems that I'm often wrestling with Your will for my life. Let me see clearly that Your will came to fruition in the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus for me. Let that be my focus in prayer, my source of joy, and my confidence in life each day. AMEN.

Rev. Gregory Seltz

ST PAUL's LUTHERAN CHURCH, Plankinton, SD
2024 Treasurer's Report — 3rd Quarter

Please contact the parish secretary for a printed copy of the third quarter treasurer's report.

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How Mary Prepared for the First Christmas Devotion

Many of us get stressed out during the weeks leading up to Christmas — so much to do, so little time. It doesn't have to be that way. Mary, the mother of Jesus, can be an example for our Christmas preparations.

How did Mary prepare when she learned she would have a role in the first Christmas? First Mary humbly submitted to God's plan. Then she rejoiced as she looked forward to the first Christmas.

Mary Submits to God's Plan

Read Luke 1:26-38.

Gabriel announced to Mary, *"you have found favor with God. And behold you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end"* (vs. 30b-33).

How did Mary respond to this announcement? (vs. 34, 38)

The notes in the *Lutheran Study Bible*, ESV, say that Mary responded with "great humility and purpose." Mary was going to be the mother of a king, but she responded as a servant, submitting to God's purpose.

What is the purpose of your Christmas preparations? What can you do to focus your preparations on God's purpose of sending Jesus to be our Savior?

Mary Sings a Song of Praise to God

Read "The Magnificat" found in Luke 1: 46–55.
What meaning do Mary's words have for you?

How will you praise God, as you prepare for Christmas?

Prayer: Dear Father in Heaven, as we prepare for Christmas, let our purpose be Your purpose. Let us prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior. Help us to replace our stress and anxiety with rejoicing. Amen.


Scripture references are from the ESV.

How Mary Prepared for the First Christmas by Colleen Spahr, Superior, Colorado
Published by Lutheran Women's Missionary League 2013
lwml.org



December 2024



SUN		MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1  First Sunday in Advent Divine Services 8:30 a.m. Trinity 10:30 a.m. St. Paul's Sunday School 9:30 a.m. St. Paul's	2	3 TR Ruth Circle 1 p.m. TR Hope Circle 2 p.m. SP Catechism Class 6 p.m.	4 TR Release-Time 2:15 p.m. TR Bible Class Wed. School 5:30 p.m.	5	6	7 SP LWML Dorcas 2 p.m.	
8  Second Sunday in Advent Divine Services 8:30 a.m. Trinity 10:30 a.m. St. Paul's Sunday School 9:30 a.m. St. Paul's	9	10 SP Catechism Class 6 p.m.	11 TR Release-Time 2:15 p.m. TR Bible Class Wed. School 5:30 p.m.	12	13	14	
15  Third Sunday in Advent Divine Services 8:30 a.m. Trinity 10:30 a.m. St. Paul's Sunday School 9:30 a.m. St. Paul's	16	17 SP Catechism Class 6 p.m.	18 TR Release-Time 2:15 p.m. TR Bible Class Wed. School 5:30 p.m.	19	20	21	
22  Fourth Sunday in Advent Divine Services 8:30 a.m. Trinity 10:30 a.m. St. Paul's Sunday School 9:30 a.m. St. Paul's	23	24 Joint Children's Christmas Eve Service at Trinity 6 p.m.	25 CHRISTMAS Joint Christmas Day Service at St. Paul's 10 a.m.	26	27	28	
29  First Sunday after Christmas Divine Services 8:30 a.m. Trinity 10:30 a.m. St. Paul's Sunday School 9:30 a.m. St. Paul's	30	31	 <i>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord (Luke 2:11).</i>				