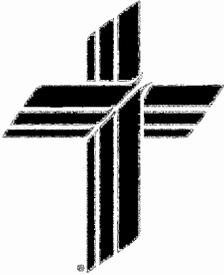


God's Family



- 10:00 a.m.—Sunday
Worship Service



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December 2022

Unwrapping St. Paul's Values

Values are an important part of any person, family, community, organization and beyond. What we value, says a lot about how we act, what do, how we handle issues, where we spend out time, how we raise our children, and so forth and so on.

Christmas is, of course, a season set on many values. Even the non-Christian world has plenty of values it attaches to Christmas time! How do I know? Well... I have watched a Hallmark Christmas movie! Okay, I'll be truthful, since I met Janie I have watched a million of them. I wish I could say I hated them all, but I don't. Their warm, vague welcoming Christmas (and hysterically bad acting and predictable scenarios) breed a sense of endearment in my heart.

Hallmark Christmas values are hard to argue with, too! Slowing down, being humble, the importance of family, true love, and giving is better than receiving, to name a few.

But there are some values that are underlying that are less explicitly shared. For instance, familiarity, predictability, only happy endings, standards of beauty, general morality and religious pluralism, and of course a hatred and disdain for anyone who doesn't like the holidays as much as the crazy Christmas people!

These values don't always exactly

line up with the true meaning of Christmas, the time when Jesus came, sent by the father to be born into humanity, to redeem, save, and revive humanity, and to be its king and Lord. Christmas is the reestablishing of God's grace and love with humanity through reconciliation. It's NOT how busy New York corporate types need to move to small town, fall in love with a local, and save the Christmas tree farm!

But the point is clear. Clear values speak to people. Shape people. Mold people. They form community, they facilitate commonality and community, and, as Hallmark has proven, they breed a movement with shared goals and visions.

St. Paul's, this advent season we are walking through our sermon series Jesus is Coming, to figure out what our values are. What we mean by values are those core elements of our community's personality that we find most important. We, of course, could have a long list of values, but the core ones our committee suggests are Tradition, Community, Family, Mentoring, and Charitability.

The next step is to determine how these values are rooted in our relationship with Jesus, and as the sermon

(continued on Page 3)



December Birthdays

12/4 – Margo Hoffmann-Shanley
12/5 – Allen Schwede
12/24 – Barbara Auping
12/26 – James Holladay

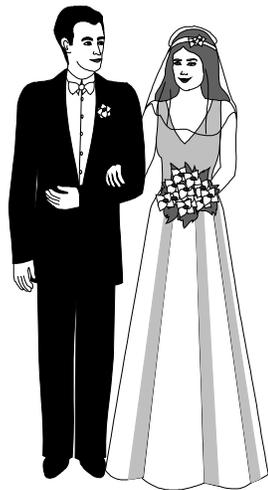
December Anniversaries

None On File



December Services

12/4—Sunday Service—10:00 a.m.— Communion
12/7—Wednesday Evening Advent Service—5:30 p.m.
12/11—Sunday Service—10:00 a.m.— Communion
12/14—Wednesday Evening Advent Service—5:30 p.m.
12/18—Sunday Service—10:00 a.m.— Communion
12/24—Christmas Eve Candlelight Service—7:00 p.m.
12/25—Christmas Morning—10:00 a.m.—Communion

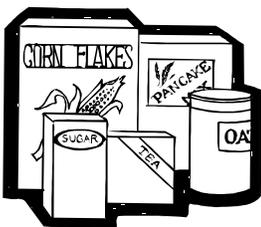


November Food Pantry Donations

Members of the congregation reported donating 36 food items and \$65.00 in cash to the New Melle Food Pantry during the month of November.

In the future, if you donate, please report this to Sherry in the office, so your donations can be included in our tally.

Meal-a-Month Needs for December



The **MEAL-A-MONTH ITEMS** for **December**: Pancake syrup, pancake mix, fruit juice, Hamburger Helper, Chicken Helper, Tuna Helper, gravy packets, laundry detergent, Kleenex tissue, paper towels, razors, shaving cream, and hair conditioner.

Please bring items directly to the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. If you donating money, please make checks payable to: St. Vincent De Paul Society. You may hand deliver your monetary (cash or check) donation or mail a check to Immaculate Heart of Mary,

PO Box 100, New Melle, MO 63365. Please report your donation to Sherry Brandes in the office for Voters Assembly and Ladies Aid records. You only need to report number of items (or boxes or bags) and dollar amount. No names will be attached to the donations; just a monthly tally of the number of food items and dollars donated will be recorded.

NOTE: Food Pantry hours are: The 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. AND for DECEMBER and JANUARY, they are adding the 3rd TUESDAY of each month from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Please tell anyone who might benefit from this service!

St. Paul's Values *(continued from page 1)*

series will explore, how we can harness our values and the DNA of our congregational personality to communicate Jesus to our community.

Christmas is bemoaned by Christians through time and space for being taken over by the secular world, commercialism and, well, Hallmark. There is a great need for the true meaning of Christmas to shine, for the values of the real Christ Coming to be communicated.

St. Paul's, the same is true for the faith today, regardless of what time of year it is. People do not know the true Jesus or what his coming means. And in our community, it is St. Paul's that has been tasked with communicating the truth, the good news, of the coming Christ. Jesus comes through us, through our values, through our personality, through our life together. Jesus came into humanity as a human to save humans. There is nothing more human than our community of believers. Help us to discover our core values, our identity, so that we can continue to find ways to communicate what we value the most, our relationship of grace through faith in Jesus our Lord, who has come, who will come again, but also comes now in the life and the body of His Church. That is you, St. Paul's!

FireStarters

Do you have a friend, acquaintance or loved one who is interested in learning more about the church? Are you looking to get your own love for Christ and his Word rekindled? Get the fire started with FireStarters!

There will be a FireStarters meeting happening in December. Please stay tuned or check with Pastor Maxx about the time and date.

To the Congregation: We need help FROM YOU to provide food and support to walk with those seeking to learn about our faith. Please contact Pastor Maxx to see how YOU can help.

If you are interested in FireStarters or some of our discipleship materials, contact Pastor Maxx

at
812-216-5891
or
maxxjofish@gmail.com



Adult Bible Study



SUNDAYS:

December 4

December 11

December 18

(Note: Dates are subject to change)

START TIME:

8:45 a.m. in the church hall

Those attending will continue walking through the Biblical words of the prophet Habakkuk, an ancient voice for the present Christian.

Decorating St. Paul's for Christmas—Inside and Out

On Saturday morning, November 26, a small but mighty group gathered at St. Paul's to prepare our church for the Christmas season. Those working on the large tree, the small tree in the narthex, the indoor manger scene, the wreaths, the candles, and the window décor included: Barb Auping, Mike, Sandy, Delaney, & Dalton Schmidt, Jackie Diederich, Amber & Mike Vossen, and Sherry Brandes. Meanwhile, the outdoor manger scene work was handled by Larry & Vicki Zuhone and their helper, Don Horstmann. The work was done quickly and efficiently with smiles all around...they knew St. Paul's was ready for Christmas — Jesus is Coming!



Don Horstmann, Larry & Vicki Zuhone



Barb Auping, Dalton & Mike Schmidt



Jackie Diederich & Delaney Schmidt



Mike & Amber Vossen



Delaney & Sandy Schmidt



Jackie Diederich



Sherry Brandes



Ladies Aid Special Program - "Baking with Missy"

The Ladies Aid meeting on Thursday, November 3, was not just "another meeting"! The evening began with a demonstration provided by Missy Motz, one of our members. She is a professional baker, retired from that life, but still baking beautiful, delicious desserts. She sometimes chooses to share her tasty concoctions with others, as she did at this meeting.

Her dessert was a "Tuxedo Torte". She explained to the ladies present how she made the torte and gave tips to make their future tortes incredible. That remains to be seen!



Missy gave each member a plate and an icing piping bag. She then demonstrated how to use icing to turn the plate into a work of art. Some were more successful at this than others, but everyone had fun trying!



Thank you, Missy, for sharing your talent with our ladies. Your torte was chocolaty-rich and amazing. We all look forward to more of your good baking in the future!

New Office Equipment



We celebrate our new office copy machine was installed on November 14.

No more bad color in our newsletter and other publications, fewer paper jams, and affordable printing and maintenance.

What a wonderful addition to our office as we work to grow our church!

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve Candlelight Saturday

December 24 - 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Morning Sunday

December 25 - 10:00 a.m.

Advent Evening Services

Wednesdays

December 7 & 14

5:30 p.m.

Following the service on December 14, there will be a time of fellowship and refreshments in the church hall.

We share wassail and cookies and sing the Wassail song, too. Please join us!

Worship Team

Tech Help Needed

We need someone to make sure the computer is running every Sunday. It is IMPORTANT!

Did you know that dozens of people watch our YouTube worship livestream on a regular basis?

Did you know our shut-ins utilize the stream to worship with us?

Did you know that several inquiries and visits have stemmed as a result of our online worship?

Now you do! And now St. Paul's needs your help!

Without consistent upkeep we often times miss the opportunity to share the gospel using our livestream!

If you aren't a tech person, that's ok! It is easy to learn, and low maintenance to operate successfully.

PLEASE TALK TO PASTOR AND HELP WITH THIS IMPORTANT PART OF ST. PAUL'S MINISTRY.

Help Us Toast ALL Who HELPED Make Oktoberfest a Success!

Please help us make sure we have properly thanked EVERYONE who helped in any way with our Oktoberfest! We have sent thank you cards to those we know who worked, but we don't want to miss the chance to thank ANYONE we may have inadvertently missed.

So, if you know of anyone who worked behind the scenes without officially signing up on a list that was given to the office, PLEASE tell Sherry and she will make sure they receive their proper "THANK YOU", because we appreciate EVERYONE who helped and we want them to KNOW THAT WE DO!



Advent Sunday Service Series—“Jesus is Coming”

December 4, 11, & 18
10:00 a.m.

St. Paul’s this advent season we celebrate how Christ has come, and how he will come again! But we also celebrate that he comes regularly to us and through us as the church into the world!

Join us every Sunday in advent to learn HOW Jesus comes in and through us, and how our special life together and values as a congregation bring Christ to the world!

New Member Reception

On Sunday, December 4, St. Paul’s welcomed two new members into our fold. Joining us are Amy Jennings and her son Mason Jennings, the daughter and grandson of Richard and Sally Goth.

Following the service a reception was held in the hall to further welcome them. Light refreshments were served.



Above: Rick Pohlmann, president of St. Paul’s Voters’ Assembly, made sure Amy and Mason

Service of Silence & Prayer

Friday Mornings
9:00-9:30 a.m.

DATES
December 9 & 16

Confession & Absolution

Friday Mornings
9:30 a.m.—12:00 noon

*Following the Service of Silence & Prayer
Pastor will be in his office for this reason.
People are free to schedule with him via
email, text, or stop by the office with
full confidentiality.
(This occur December, as listed on the
schedule above.)*

Pastor Fisher Preaches in Seymour, Indiana

This past month Pastor Maxx visited his home congregation, Redeemer Lutheran Church, in Seymour Indiana, to preach for their 75th anniversary.

Along with attending several worship services, he also participated in a Q & A and a luncheon with the congregation.

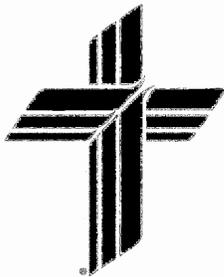
There they talked about the importance of not putting Jesus in a box, nor the light of Jesus he has tasked us to shine.

Pastor Maxx’s message to us at St. Paul’s following this meaningful experience is: Continue to act, think, and step outside of the box, so that the world can see you, us, and ultimately Christ in us!

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 70
New Melle, MO 63365

"A new command I give
you: Love one another."
John 13:34



St. Paul's Lutheran Church-
Missouri Synod

Bits of Ladies Aid Christmas Party History

December 1940—Ladies Aid meetings had been held upstairs in Meier's Warehouse, which was southeast of the store. Future meetings will be held in a room rented from Mrs. Homes. (However, in February 1941, they were compelled to vacate these newly rented quarters, due to the War Effort, because workers at the Weldon Springs Ord. Works needed housing.)

December 1951—A motion carried to have the Christmas party on December 27th at 1:00 p.m. at the Welge Hall if the hall is available. Adults are to bring a present, the value of which is to be from 50 cents to 75 cents. Children 25 cents. These are to be exchanged in the usual manner. Refreshments of coffee, sandwiches and cookies are to be served. Each member bringing sandwiches and cookies for herself, her children and her guests. Also to bring a cup so the committee will not have to get the Ladies Aid cups from our regular meeting place. Our Christmas Party was held January 3, 1952 at the school house because there was no school and on the date set, roads very hazardous for driving due to the ice conditions that has existed since Christmas Eve.



ANOTHER PARTY: A St. Paul's Ladies Aid Christmas Party from the late 1980's. This tradition has continued for a VERY long time. Only the locations, prices, and types of presents have changed. The wonderful food, fellowship, and joy in each others' company celebrating the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ has remained the

This Year's Ladies Aid Christmas Party—Details for Attendees

For those attending the Ladies Aid Christmas Party, here are some things you need to know:

Date: Saturday, December 10

Time: Arrive at 11:30 a.m., get organized and socialize.

Meal: Served at 12:00 noon

1) Everyone attending is asked to pay \$5.00 to help cover the cost of the meat, drinks, game prizes and attendance prizes.

2) Everyone attending is asked to bring a side dish (meat, drinks, and paper products, and other items will be provided by the Ladies Aid). Cookies will be our dessert.

3) Those who had a Secret Pal in 2022 will bring a gift (suggested value: between \$10 and \$15). If you do not have a Secret Pal, you may bring an exchange gift to trade with others who do not have a Secret Pal.

4) Those wishing to participate in a cookie exchange are asked to bring two dozen cookies. Cookies will be used as the dessert for the meal. Following the party,

those who brought cookies may take some home or leave them to be used at the 3rd Wednesday evening Advent service, which will be followed by wassail and cookies served in the church hall.

5) Names will be drawn for a 2023 Secret Pal. If you cannot attend the party, see Sherry Brandes after the party to draw from the remaining names.

6) A free-will Ingathering will be taken. Proceeds will go to a family in the area that is in need.

7) Following the meal, a game will be played and winners will receive prizes, Secret Pal gifts will be opened, new Secret Pal names for 2023 will be drawn, Christmas carols will be sung, and attendance prizes will be awarded.

For answers to more party or secret pal questions, please contact one of the committee members: Becky Murphy, Missy Motz, or Sherry Brandes.