

Serving Christ During the Week

Today: 9am, Divine Service (with Baptism)

6:45pm Children are in their Sunday School classrooms

7pm Children's Christmas Eve Program

Monday: [No School; Christmas break]

9am Feast of the Holy Nativity

Tuesday: NO 6am Early Bird Bible Study

Wednesday: [Pastor likely gone through Friday]

NO 3:15pm Public School Catechism

NO 6pm Adult Choir

Thursday

Friday:

Saturday:

Next Sunday: 9am, Divine Service

7pm New Year's Eve Confessional Service

NEWS AND NOTES December 24, 2017

⊕ During Communion distribution, the Communion hymn is sung. As long as people are still communing, the next consecutive hymns in the hymnal are sung. We do not stand for doxological hymn verses during Communion distribution.

⊕ This evening at 7pm will be the children's Christmas Eve program. It is for this reason we only have one 9am service this morning. There is also then no Sunday School or Adult Bible class this morning.

⊕ Today's closing hymn (357) is the Hymn of the Week. Our Wyneken children worked on stanza 1 this past week.

⊕ We rejoice together today as Madison Grace Downing is baptized into Christ. Madison was born to Brandon and Jennifer (nee Wefel) on August 18, 2017. Her sponsors are Jill Wefel and Kylee Wefel. May we each recall our baptism with joy and peace.

⊕ We begin our service today with a baptism hymn (605). We then follow the liturgy for Holy Baptism, pp. 268ff. After the Baptism we will continue with the Introit responsively (see bulletin cover), followed with the Kyrie on p. 204. We omit the Gloria in Excelsis, saving it for Christmas. Pastor Brege will explain these things in the service.

⊕ During the Advent season 8th graders will frequently be the ones lighting the Advent wreath, reciting a prophecy of Christ from the prophet Isaiah. Today is a rather unusual Sunday of the church year as it is the last Sunday in Advent and

simultaneously Christmas Eve. We will wait until this evening to light the Christmas candle on the wreath.

⊕ There will be no Sunday School or Adult Bible Class December 24, or December 31.

⊕ 2018 offering envelop boxes are now available. These boxes are located in the narthex of church. Please see a deacon if you need assistance in locating yours. If you did not receive a box for 2018 and would like one, please contact John Schueler or Alan Zimmerman. Whenever possible, please use these envelopes if you would like to have your donation recorded to your account as this helps the recording process of the financial secretary.

⊕ Tomorrow in our Christmas Day service at 9am, we will consider the final name given to the coming Christ through the prophet Isaiah in Isaiah 9:6. Here the prophet predicts that the coming Christ would be called the Prince of Peace. Do you need peace? Come to tomorrow's Christmas Service and realize peace in the birth of the Prince of Peace.

⊕ Wyneken parents who attend worship here with their Wyneken children are reminded to initial their column on the special books in the narthex. Recall that each Wyneken child(ren) and their families must attend at least 14 services at the church to retain their member tuition status.

⊕ Pastor and Lynn will be taking a couple of days off this week (likely December 27-29). In an emergency contact Pastor Dahling.

⊕ Next Sunday is New Year's Eve. As agreed by the Voters, we will have only one morning service at 9am, with the installation of church officers and appointees. There will be no Sunday School or Adult Bible Class. Additionally next Sunday at 7pm we will have our Service of Confession as 2017 draws to a close.

⊕ We would like to have a set person lined up to shovel the sidewalks when necessary on Sunday mornings. This individual would be paid for this work. If interested, contact one of our Trustees: Nolan Scheumann, Tom Reinhart, Brian Todd.

⊕ Though not noted at the recent Voters meeting, our next elders, council and voters meetings are planned for January 22 and 23.

⊕ For the Children's Christmas program, participating children should be in their Sunday School classrooms by 6:45pm this evening.

⊕ The Orphan Grain Train needs our help. The catastrophic effects of Hurricane Harvey are enormous. Over 50 inches of rain fell in some areas of Texas and the

devastation is incredible. Thrivent Financial has offered to match gifts up to \$3,000,000.00 to 8 organizations and the Orphan Grain Train is one. (On a first come first served basis.) Qualifying gifts must be given through Thrivent.com. (Gifts sent directly to Orphan Grain Train will not be matched.) To take advantage of this opportunity follow these simple directions: Go to www.thrivent.com. On the home page click on "Help Now" on the left hand side. Click on "Continue" and then fill in the information to make your gift. (Note that credit card gifts will have a fee deducted from your gift so donations made directly from a checking or savings account will be most beneficial.) Each gift will be doubled until the entire \$3,000,000.00 has been met or December, 31, 2017, whichever is first. It is impossible to overemphasize the extent of this disaster. Orphan Grain Train will be involved in restoring this area for years to come. May our dear Lord Jesus bless your consideration of such a gift! *Rev. Ralph G. Schmidt CFRE, Director of Donor Advising*

⊕ We love babies! We love their moms and dads! In support of Sanctity of Human Life, we are providing you with the opportunity to purchase **new** baby items for The Hope Clinic. We are hosting a church-wide baby shower, so that we can bless moms who have chosen life for their child. The following items are always needed: diaper bags, diapers (especially sizes 4, 5 or 6) and wipes, **new** baby equipment (cribs, mattresses, high chairs, baby gates, strollers, carrier infant car seats, car seats for up to 40 pounds, and toddler seats/boosters), crib sheets, laundry soap, potty chair or ring, pacifiers, teething toys, bottles and sippy cups, baby tableware, baby toys, baby clothes (newborn through 2T), receiving blankets, and formula. We would especially like to have children's books for infant through at least 3 years of age. Items not needed at this time include: baby powder and baby oil. For our mothers, we need gently used maternity clothes in sizes large and extra-large that are suitable for the work place. We thank you in advance!

⊕ The *Portals of Prayer* Devotionals for January-March are available. Make sure to pick one up and use them for family devotions in the coming new year.

⊕ Dear St. Paul Congregation: We are richly blessed to have an established endowment fund that has given us the opportunity to support our youth programs, mission trips and various capital projects in excess of \$170,000.00. Grant applications for St. Paul-Preble Endowment Fund 2018 grants are now being accepted through **January 7th**. The funds can be used for the following: 1. **Missions**: Local, regional and world projects; 2. **Youth**: Support for youth of all ages. 3. **Worship and Music**: Support for the worship activities of our congregation. 4. **Capital Projects**: Major renovations and building of new facilities. All members are encouraged to participate in this process. No fundraising is required! Please give extra thought and consideration to potential uses for these funds. Application forms and Bylaws can be found on the tables in the rear of the church. Completed forms or any questions should

Saint Paul Lutheran Church Preble

Sermon: "Conceived by the Holy Spirit" Luke 1:35

- I. Christ is conceived by the Lord and Giver of Life.
 - A. The Holy Spirit is the Lord and Giver of life.
 - B. Up to this point all people are totally derived from Adam.
- II. God's purpose: Christ would become the source of LIFE within fallen humanity.
 - A. Christ, conceived by the Holy Spirit, breathes new life into humanity.
 - B. Christ's Church is now like Mary, that which receives new life by the Holy Spirit.

P: Lord, in your mercy **C:** Hear our prayer:

The Communicants

Our Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

The Nation

Our Sick & Shut-in:

Birthdays: Don Haines, Mark Bulmahn, Machel Fuelling, Malissa Keane, Linda Fruchte, Ella Sovine

SERVICE OF LOVE IN CHRIST

Serving Christ and Being Served in Worship

8am Worship: 121 10:15am Worship: 120

Bible Class: 71 Midweek Advent Service: 48

Serving Christ in our Offerings

Need Weekly: \$7,181.70 Received Last Week: \$13,208.19

(+) or (-) Weekly: +\$6,026.49 (+) or (-) Year to Date: -\$58,983.90

be addressed to Steve Kreigh, Scott Ainsworth, Sue Buuck, Barry Melcher, or Mike Werling.

⊕ OASIS YOUTH: HS Youth gatherings on the following Sunday evenings beginning at 6:30pm: **Jan. 7, 21, 28. Sunday, January 7** at 6:30pm is the High School Youth Epiphany Gathering and Gift Exchange. Join us for our annual Epiphany HS youth gathering as we play games and have a "white elephant" style gift exchange. Please bring a wrapped gift and a snack to share. Gifts should be valued at \$10.00 or less. Sunday, **January 21** at 6:30pm is the HS Youth Sanctity of Life Gathering. There will be a special presentation on the sanctity of human life (womb to tomb). We will prepare banners and signs for the Ft. Wayne March for Life. **January 27** 11am-2pm All Youth March for Life in Ft. Wayne. Look for the OASIS calendar of events in today's bulletin. Extra copies of the OASIS calendar are in the Narthex.

⊕ Check out the upcoming events offered by Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW), Fort Wayne. For additional information concerning all events, please go to www.ctsfw.edu or phone [260.452.2100](tel:260.452.2100). **Music Events** *All the following music events take place in Kramer Chapel and are open to the public.* **Sunday, January 14 4:00 p.m.** *Epiphany Evening Prayer* Seminary Kantorei **Wednesday, January 17 5:00 p.m.** *Symposia Choral Vespers* Seminary Schola Cantorum **Thursday, January 18 5:00 p.m.** *Symposia Vespers and Organ Recital* Rev. Timothy Frank.

⊕ "Prayer list" for members to use as they bring the needs of others before God's throne of grace: Carol Bieberich; Cathy Terhune has miraculously shown improvement; Eileen Hintz is suffering from bone cancer; Marilyn Harvey; Rae Fuhrmann (long time Wyneken teacher); James Johnson (grandfather of Bobbi Shane).

⊕ Jesus brought God delicately amidst sinners, as humble in crucifixion as He was helpless in conception. Yet this estate did not hinder but in fact heralded the full realm and reign of God for us. And thereby He reaffirmed the worth of even the feeblest human beings. God's gift of life arrives all the better for the plain packaging He habitually hides it behind. *Lamb of God, make our taking hold of You to cradle Your little ones as well. Amen.*

⊕ The lessons for next Sunday are Isaiah 60:1-6; Eph. 3:1-12; Matt. 2:1-12.

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