

# **St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church**

*Holstein, Iowa*

*Phone: (712) 368-2228; fax: (712) 368-4584*

## **Worship Services:**

Sunday 9:00 am  
Sunday School 10:00 am  
Coffee Hour: 10:00 am

## **Office Hours**

Mon. – Thurs. 8:30 am – 4:00 pm; Fri. 8:30 – 12:00

**E-mail address:** [stpaul Lutheran@ruralwaves.us](mailto:stpaul Lutheran@ruralwaves.us)

**St. Paul website:** [www.holsteinstpaul Lutheran.com](http://www.holsteinstpaul Lutheran.com)

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**Ministers:** *All the members*

**DYME:** *Jim and Kris Kistenmacher – 368-2250*

**E-mail:** [jim.kistenmacher@gmail.com](mailto:jim.kistenmacher@gmail.com)

## **Scripture Readings for**

**December 3, 2017**

### **First Sunday of Advent**

**First Reading:** Isaiah 64:1-9

**Psalmody:** Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

**Second Reading:** 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

**Gospel:** Mark 13:24-37

## **Worship Participants**

**GREETERS:** Andrew and Melissa Butcher

Shirley Ewoldt & Les Vohs

**LECTORS:** Brock Boling

**DEACONS:** Kelly Otto and Mike Modrell

**ACOLYTE:** Emma Vohs, Zander Ernst, Gwen Jacobson

**SOUND/VIDEO OPERATOR:** Kevin Johnson,  
Anya Kistenmacher

**TRANSPORTATION:** Jim Sorensen (368-4448)

**FLOWERS:** Flowers provided by the Altar fund

**COFFEE HOSTS:** Bob and Connie Butcher (chairman)  
Dennis and Deb Krager

## **St. Paul Church Schedule**

### **SATURDAY, December 2**

**9:00 AM** Decorate the church

### **SUNDAY, December 3**

**9:00 AM** Worship/comm. – Pastor Ben McIntire

**10:00 AM** Program practice N-6<sup>th</sup> grade

**10:00 AM** Coffee hour

**10:00 AM** Adult Bible Study in Overflow room

**1:00 PM** Program practice 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade

### **MONDAY, December 4**

Budgets due to the office

### **TUESDAY, December 5**

**3:45 PM** Christmas Program practice 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade

### **WEDNESDAY, December 6**

**3:45 PM** LOGOS – *Winter Wonderland*

### **THURSDAY, December 7**

**12:30 PM** WELCA Christmas luncheon

**7:00 PM** Trustees Budget meeting

### **SATURDAY, December 9**

**11:00 AM** Program practice K-6<sup>th</sup> grade

### **SUNDAY, December 10**

**9:00 AM** Worship – Pastor Anna Spieser

**10:00 AM** Coffee hour

**10:00 AM** Program practice all grades

**4:30 PM** Children's Christmas Program followed by  
Soup supper

### **TUESDAY, December 12**

**9:00 AM** Ruth Circle

## **LOGOS – DEC. 6 – Schedule**

**Set-up:** Janet Volkert, Cheryl Meyer

**Snack Servers:** Jean Meier, Lori Volkert

**Cook Team:** Jan Grell, Diane Droegmiller, Kallie Voge, Andrea Niemeier, Beth Schossov

**Clean-up:** Lex or Steph Jacobson, Jim Breyfogle, Justin & Val Georg, Dave & Bonnie Stevenson, AJ Stevenson, Jeana Todd

**Wash Table Cloths:** Karen Breyfogle

**Wash Towels:** Karen Breyfogle

**Home Bakers:** Sue Fitch, Laura Peuse, Hillary Walsh, Deb Krager, Victoria Conover



*No one is in the hospital at this time.*

If you know of anyone who needs transportation to/from worship services please call the person listed for transportation on our participant list in this mid-week by **Thursday afternoon.**

If you have a prayer request or wish to be included on the prayer chain please call Eileen Ostermann (368-4579) or the Church Office (368-2228).



Please remember that the Mitten Tree is up and needs more gloves, mittens, hats and scarfs. There are children that will really appreciate the warmth of these gloves, mittens, hats and scarves when the cold wind blows and they are on their way to school. Thank you for thinking about these children when you are shopping.



Time and Talent sheets have been collected and we are shocked that we only have 58 sheets as of Nov. 17. PLEASE take time to fill yours out and hand it in either in the offering plate or bring to my office. If you can't find your sheet I have some at the office for you. We really need the whole congregation to help out here at St. Paul and this is one way that we know what area you would like to help. We all have some sort of gift that can be put to good use at St. Paul so PLEASE let us see yours!



**Congregational Meeting**

St. Paul Lutheran Church will have a special Congregational meeting **on Sunday December 3<sup>rd</sup>**

immediately following worship service in the fellowship hall. On the agenda will be information on a proposed renovation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor educational unit. Information will be provided on the needs and the associated costs. Also discussed will be a unique opportunity to raise the funds for this project. Please plan on being there for this meeting.

**Congregational Close-up  
 Worship Service Attendance**



**Thanksgiving Eve, Nov. 22, 2017**

**7:00 pm – 75**

**November 26, 2017**

**9:00 Worship – 128**

**Treasurer's Report for the week of Nov. 26<sup>th</sup>**

**BENEVOLENCE**

**LOCAL**

**Ingham/Okoboji Bible Beyond ..... \$50.00**

**GLOBAL**

**ELCA World Hunger ..... \$120.00**

**CURRENT**

**General Fund..... \$2,057.00**

**Loose Plate..... \$75.55**

**Thanksgiving..... \$512.00**

**Sunday School-NOISY offering ..... \$82.00**

**LOGOS-donations-Lutheran ..... \$520.00**

**Gifts of Grain..... \$3,295.44**

**Bldg-kitchen..... \$35.00**

**Total Income Nov. 26, 2017.... \$6746.99**

**Offering Envelopes**



Offering envelopes are in the North entrance for you to pick up. Please let us know if yours is not there so that a box can be prepared for you. If you know of a shut-in that cannot pick theirs up please help them out by delivering it to them.

Holstein Community Blood Drive will be on Thursday, Dec. 7, 2017 from 2 pm to 5 pm at the Veteran's Memorial Hall in Holstein. To make an appointment contact LifeServe Blood Center at 800-287-4903 or visit [www.lifeservebloodcenter.org](http://www.lifeservebloodcenter.org)



Suggested donations for the **Community Basket** during the month of **December** are breakfast items such as pancake mix, syrup, cereal, breakfast bars, etc. You may place your donations in the box under the coatrack in the north entrance.

## Birthday Anniversaries

(November 30 – December 6)



12-03: Darwin Ehlers, Carly Murphy, Keith Petersen  
12-04: Kolby Stevenson, Ashley Trost  
12-05: Leo Nedved  
12-06: Amelia Doxtad, Kristina Vollmar

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Wish these St. Paul members a very "Happy Birthday" and watch for a new list each week.

If your birthday was inadvertently omitted, or is incorrect, please call the office so we can make the correction to our records.

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## 2017 HOLSTEIN AREA COMMUNITY CHEST FUND DRIVE

The Holstein Area Community Chest Fund Drive has officially begun. Through the generous support of many Holstein area citizens and business donors, \$9,990.00 was raised last year and \$9,940.00 was disbursed to many worthwhile organizations. The donations have been used to enhance the programs of Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, Holstein Fire and Ambulance, Community Food Basket, Kinderfest, Children's Summer Theatre, Transient Fund, as well as many extra-curricular activities at the school.

Thank you for your support in the past and we hope you will consider making a donation again this year. Donations may be mailed or dropped off at Community Bank, Heritage Bank, United Bank of Iowa or the City Hall. Donations qualify as charitable contributions for income tax purposes.

If you have any questions concerning this year's fund drive, you may contact any of the following board members: Ramona Schuett, Allen Fitch, Karla Henderson, Lynette Henry, Christine Wiese or Kiley Todd.

Again, thank you for your generous support!

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THANKS  
FOR THE GIFTS!

Thank you to everyone who helped support the Operation Christmas Child service project that the 4th-8th grade youth completed. They were able to put together 30 boxes of gifts for children suffering from extreme poverty. We spent three weeks on this project. This is one of the kids' favorite projects. We are thankful to have the support of our congregation. Please continue to pray for the children receiving our boxes.

## Baptism Anniversaries

(November 30 – December 6)



11-30: Everett Sanders, Kelby Wulf  
12-01: Dean Babcock, Eileen Ostermann, Brandon Stevenson, Skylar Stevenson, Karen Werner  
12-02: Laura Peuse, Lorraine Todd  
12-03: Linda Jochims  
12-04: Maddison Schubert, Matthew Werner  
12-06: Kyle Burk, Dennis Leonard

## CHRISTMAS PARTY!



CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Thursday, December 7 at 12:30 WELCA will have their annual Christmas Luncheon here at St. Paul. Come sing Christmas carols, hear readings and see a skit by Laura Peuse and Lori Volkert. Please bring cookies or bars to share for dessert. This should be an enjoyable afternoon so please join us.



We extend our sympathy to Merlin Gebers and family on the loss of his wife Elva Gebers. Elva passed away on Monday, November 27<sup>th</sup>. Her funeral is pending at this time. May God's grace give this family comfort at the time of their loss.



It is time to think about decorating the church for the holidays. Council would like it if everyone that could help them would come on **December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9 am** and help put up the trees and all the beautiful greenery for Advent.

Remember that all help is appreciated even if you only have an hour. It takes many hands to get this done in a timely fashion and we all love to see the lights and greenery for the holidays. Thank you for all that choose to help out.



Sunday School Christmas program practices have begun. A schedule was made available to parents and we hope to see all of the children for this special event. Parents, please pay close attention to the grade levels needed at each rehearsal.

Schedule is as follows:

Saturday	December 2	9:00 a.m.	K - 6 <sup>th</sup> grades
Sunday	December 3	10:00 a.m.	N - 6 <sup>th</sup> grades
	<b>AND</b>	1:00 p.m.	2 <sup>nd</sup> - 6 <sup>th</sup> grades
Tuesday	December 5	3:45 - 5:00 p.m.	2 <sup>nd</sup> - 6 <sup>th</sup> grades
Saturday	December 9	11:00 a.m.	K - 6 <sup>th</sup> grades
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>December 10</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>all grades</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>December 10</b>	<b>4:15 p.m.</b>	<b>report for program</b>
		<b>4:30 p.m.</b>	<b>program begins!</b>
			<b>Soup supper to follow</b>

“Welcome to Holstein’s Hometown Christmas” will be held on Saturday, Dec 2. The evening activities will begin at 5:00 pm on the Lohff Schumann Rec Center grounds and will include hotdogs and hot cocoa, live animals, live nativity, Christmas Tree lighting in honor of Holstein’s first volunteer, business, educator, and citizen of the year recipients, and a hayride.

We are seeking voices to join in the singing of Christmas carols during the presentation of the live nativity at 6:00 pm. If you would like to sing with us, please gather near the tree a few minutes before 6:00. Music lyrics will be provided. No practice necessary.

Task Force members please hand in your Budget request by Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>. The Trustees will be working on the Budget for 2018 on Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup> so they would like to know if there are any changes to last year’s budget.

## Merry Christmas from LSI!

*“The light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness has not overcome it.” — John 1:5*

As Christmas approaches, we give thanks to you! Every day, as a ministry partner of LSI, you help bring the light of Christ to others.

At LSI, we know many people experiencing deep darkness. We know parents who feel hopeless, with little to no resources to raise their young children. We know adults with disabilities who feel voiceless, with no support system or connection to their community. We know teens who are aging out of the foster care system, who fear they will never belong to anyone or have a family to love them.

LSI’s work is Christmas work, shining love, compassion, and light in places of darkness, despair, abuse, neglect, addiction, and loneliness. We could not do this important work without you, and we are so grateful.

Wishing you a blessed and merry Christmas from LSI!

*Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at [www.LSIowa.org](http://www.LSIowa.org) and [www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa](https://www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa).*



### ***The Advent Wreath - Did You Know...?***

The Advent wreath can be traced to the Romans' ancient rite of waiting in the darkness for the return of the sun, and for the Feast of the Sun on December 25. The ancients took a wheel off their wagons and fastened torches to it to see them through the darkness. The only thing alive in the winter, evergreen, was brought inside and fastened to the wheel. To those huddled in darkness, it was a sign of vegetation and springtime. More than three hundred years ago, German Christians fashioned the same elements into the Advent wreath—the greens a sign of hope and eternity. What was once a Feast of the *Sun* has become for us the Feast of the *Son*.

Though all of us are tempted to act otherwise, now is the time for slowing down and leaning together. As with the ancients, we gather in the darkness to wait for the light. If our ancestors removed a wagon wheel for torchlight, consider what it would be like for us to take a wheel off our car, truck, or minivan. Instead of rushing to the mall, we'd stay home but also gather with friends to sing ancient hymns and hear readings of prophecy and promise.

In the dead of winter, we need one another and we need signs that the sun (and the Son) will come again—life returning to dark and dormant land and lives. Like the ancients who gathered together for courage and hope that the sun would return, we gather each week to hear the word that does not pass away. The season's readings give us voice for our brokenness and the promise of a savior.

*This Advent let us challenge one another to honor these dark days.*

As twenty-first-century people, we are not good at either embracing darkness or slowing down. We don't even know darkness anymore—we've banished it with electricity, everywhere and at all hours. And we certainly can't wait. We look for the shortest line at the grocery store and rush through yellow lights. But we know incubation is what we often most need: for grapes to become fine wine, for a novel to be written, for dough to rise, for a crop to grow, for a baby to be born. It is in the waiting that we learn about ourselves and others, taking important steps toward understanding. Perhaps there is no better gift to teach our children than the ability to wait. Christmas *is* coming; it's just not here yet.

Advent is not all doom and darkness; it is filled with possibilities to coax forth light along the way. Each week (and daily at mealtime), the Advent wreath candles do that for us. Do you have an Advent wreath to light at home? The following are prayers for week 1 of Advent, one to use when lighting your wreath, and also one to use at mealtime. No wreath? Four votive or pillar candles work great!

#### ***Week 1 Candle lighting prayer:***

Lord Jesus, you have given us spiritual gifts as we wait for your coming. Keep us awake and help us use our gifts to serve those who look for the dawn of your justice and mercy. Amen

#### ***Table Prayer:***

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest; let these gifts to us be blest. Guide us on the servant's way; lead us to your dawning day. Amen.

(From *Sundays and Seasons*)

New prayers for each week of Advent will be included in the December midweeks.