



December 2017

# ST. PAUL'S PRESS

## *Merry Christmas!*

*They worshipped him.* Matthew 2:11

What do you need to accomplish before you are ready for worship?

The Magi from the East came to see the newborn king. They understood that the star appeared to signal his birth. They needed to worship this King for he was not only a man, but God himself, come to save his people.

We do not know for sure where in God's Word they received this insight. Perhaps they read Isaiah 9: *"<sup>6</sup>For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup>Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever."*

Or perhaps they read Isaiah 61: *"Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. <sup>2</sup>See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you. <sup>3</sup>Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn."*

On seeing this divine light in the heavens, these foreign men left home, family and work to go and worship the King.

Is God interrupting your schedule with his invitation to worship the King? We enjoy all kinds of holiday activities: food, family, hunting, football, and much more. When do we go to worship the King?

Yes, as Christmas approaches, we schedule our time

carefully. Christmastime is busy. But we make sure Christ is at the top of the list, claiming our time and worship day after day.

Like the Magi, our worship uses our time, which we gladly give for our King. Like the Magi, our



### the Pastor's corner

*And, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh.*

*Matthew 2 KJV*

worship is more than a few, leftover treasures, easily spent, but we give what is precious and rare. Even more, we give our hearts, our love, our everything.

How blessed we are who bring our whole family to worship! How blessed are we who travel short trips to our church for worship! How blessed we are who see Jesus, our Savior, and by faith receive his gifts! We see Christ coming and, like the Magi, are overjoyed to worship our King.

***God bless your worship this Christmas!***



## *Pray for each other*

*The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. –James 5:16*

### **PRAYER LIST**

Pray for the following for health and strength: Donna Lohrey, Jane Ness, Marilyn Nell and Howie Nell. Linda Vanvenroy thanks everyone for all their prayers for God is answering them. Please pray for the families whose loved ones recently went home to heaven: The family of Don Reinhart, Lawrence Murray, Alvin Chaudoir, and Bob Wessel.

Thank you for all your prayers on behalf of one another.

## *Worship the Lord*

*Let us not give up meeting together. –Hebrews 10:25*

### **Upcoming Worship**

In these next two months, December and January, we have three of the six seasons of the church year, Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. The focus of our worship is always on Christ, and these seasons enhance that focus. Advent encourages us to prepare faithfully for Christ's coming, both as we remember his birth and as we look ahead to his return in glory. Christmas is the pure joy of the good news for all people that Christ is born; God has come among us (*Immanuel*) to save. Epiphany reveals the Christ in his divine nature, love, power and wisdom through his words and actions, so that we recognize our Savior and eagerly follow him.

*As we look ahead to this Christmas season, please mark these special worship services on your calendar:*

Normal Saturday worship:	December 23, 4pm
Normal Sunday worship:	December 24, 9am.
<b>Children's Christmas Eve Service:</b>	December 24, 6pm.
<b>Candlelight Service:</b>	December 24, 9pm.
<b>Christmas Day Worship:</b>	December 25, 9am.
Normal Saturday worship:	December 30, 4pm.
Normal Sunday worship:	December 31, 9am.
<b>New Year's Eve Worship:</b>	December 31, 6:30pm.





## *Come and Learn, Go and Share*

*Our mission as members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church*

**OUR GREAT HERITAGE Update** –As we enter into the last month of our special offering, the Board of Stewardship is encouraging every member to make use of this offering to support the gospel ministry at St. Paul's. If the Lord has allowed you to give an additional gift this year, please do so. What a great and wonderful Lord we have. So far we have received over half of our goal.



**LITTLE SPROUTS PLAYGROUP** – We welcome new people any time. We meet at our school this month on **Thurs., December 7 & 21 at 9:30 am**. Please share this info with families who have children ages 0-5.

**CHRISTMAS DECORATING (TEENS)** - We will meet at church on Sunday, December 3, after football, to decorate our church for the season. We need many helpers to put up the Christmas tree and trim it. Please invite teens to come. We will have food and drink.

**CHRISTMAS SHOP FOR KIDS** – The Fellowship and Group Life Committee will host the Christmas Shop for Kids, December 16 & 17. The shop will be set up at church in the downstairs fellowship hall.

**Saturday, December 16** 10:30 am – 12:30 pm

**Sunday, December 17** 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

We ask for volunteers to greet our guests, to wrap presents for our shoppers, and help our children find the perfect gift in our kid's shop. There is a sign-up sheet for volunteers on the communication center at church. Parents and caregivers, please remember that our gifts sell for \$0.25 to \$2.00. Please bring your children to our shop where they can find their personal gift for every family member. Once you open Christmas gifts lovingly chosen by your children, you will bring your kids every year, so you can see year by year what treasure they pick for you.

*Live Nativity*

**December 2**

**5:00 pm – 7:00 pm**

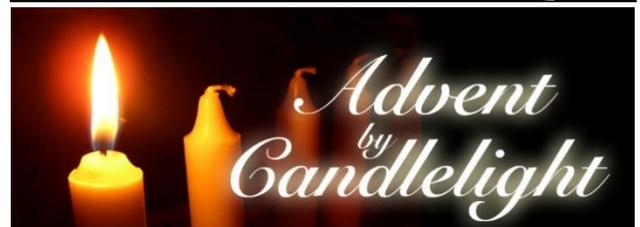
**@ St. Paul's School**

*We Have Come to Worship Him*

**December 10**

**1 pm – 3 pm**

**@ St. Paul's Church**





## *St. Paul's Lutheran School*

### **FROM OUR PRINCIPAL**

With December coming now, we focus our attention to the birth of our Savior. This year our children's Christmas service is entitled, "A *Sola* Christmas". We are reminded how God used Martin Luther to restore to the church the true teachings of Scripture. Luther summarized those teachings in five short statements: By Scripture Alone, By Faith Alone, Through Christ Alone, To God's Glory Alone, and By Grace Alone. The children of our elementary school and Sunday School, through recitation, narration, and song will be reminding us how these phrases form the foundation of the Lutheran Church, and because they are rooted in Scripture, form the foundation of our Christian faith. Our children's service begins at 6:00 p.m. on December 24th.



Christmas break begins at noon on December 22 and classes will resume on Tuesday, January 2nd.

The staff and faculty at St. Paul's wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

Please continue to pray for our school. You are the best promoters! If you know of someone who might be interested, please have them contact the school office.

**FROM OUR EARLY CHILDHOOD DIRECTOR** – Waiting for the sensory table to open in the 3k classroom is like waiting at the doors to open on Black Friday. Everybody is as close as they can be, waiting in anticipation to see what they can get there hands on. Usually there is pushing and shoving with the handful of reminders that hands are for helping, not hurting. This particular day, there was no needed reminders, everyone just waited patiently to come to the sensory table. Once it opened, the whole class was welcomed to come to the table, explore, and enjoy themselves.



God tells us to come to the table of His Word, and we sinners line up, anxious to know we are redeemed. Take your place beside the Savior who welcomes you. Sit down and use your senses to hear about God's love shown to us years ago in a stable in Bethlehem. Come to His table.