

CHURCH CALENDAR

TODAY (Dec 16) Sunday School 8:00 am
WORSHIP (Adult Bible Study after worship)..... 9:00 am
MON (Dec 17) Choir..... 6:00 pm
TUES (Dec 18) Pastor teaches Gr.4-6 Catechism at Bethlehem... 8:15 am
WED (Dec 19) Grade 7-8 Confirmation Class..... 6:30-7:45 pm
THUR (Dec 20) Pastor teaches Gr.4-6 Catechism at Bethlehem.... 8:15 am
 Teen & 20-Something Bible Class..... 7:00 pm
SAT (Dec 22) *Bring poinsettias to church*..... --All day--
SUN (Dec 23) Sunday School 8:00 am
WORSHIP (NO Adult Bible Study after worship)..... 9:00 am

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEARS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

† **6:00 PM CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP**
 † **9:00 AM CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP**
 † **6:30 PM NEW YEAR'S EVE WORSHIP**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS INVITATIONS AVAILABLE IN ENTRYWAY: Take some of the full color Christmas invitations home with you to invite a family member or friend to church in the Christmas season.

DIVORCE CARE: Divorce was never a part of God's plan for marriage. Because of that, it always hurts. Find resolution in God's Word together with others who've been through the same thing. Find the wholeness and healing God brings through his Word. Attend "Divorce Care," a program offered by Immanuel Lutheran Church, Greenville (In the Emmaus Library). DivorceCare is offered Tuesdays, January 8-April 2 (6:30-8:30 pm). DivorceCare is a teaching tool to support anyone who has been hurt by the pain of divorce or separation. This program offers short videos each week, a helpful workbook, and ample time for group discussion and support. To register, visit www.divorcecare.org or call the Church office at Immanuel at 920-757-5639. Cost is \$20 for the workbook.

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE

December 9 Plate Offerings: \$2,762.00
 Weekly Electronic Offerings: \$164.00
 Total Offerings this past week = \$2,926.50
 OFFERINGS RECEIVED YTD (49 wks) \$108,381.21
 TOTAL OFFERINGS NEEDED YTD = \$112,406.00
 YTD DEFICIT = (\$4,024.79); AMOUNT NEEDED EACH WEEK: \$2,294.00
 TOTAL FOR SPECIAL PROJECTS = \$5,253.00



(Visit stpauldale.com to give electronically or scan Q-R code)



St Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

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† Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod †

**WORSHIP SCHEDULE: Saturdays at 5:00 p.m. & Sundays at 9:00 a.m.
 SUNDAY SCHOOL 8:00 am; ADULT BIBLE STUDY SUNDAYS after WORSHIP**





Making Friends For Eternity

St Paul Ev. Lutheran Church

A Member Congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)
PASTOR WILLIAM A FINN † OFFICE PHONE: 779-6777 † CELL PHONE: 538-1567

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT December 16, 2018

Welcome to Worship

Getting so close to Christmas! The first lesson has been worked into our confession and forgiveness and gives expression to the joy repentance brings of God's joy over the redeemed. Paul calls on believers to rejoice in all things (Second Lesson). Taking a cue from the lessons we light the third candle on the Advent wreath, sometimes referred to as the "Joy Candle" or the "Shepherd's Candle," who were overjoyed at the things they saw and heard from the angels, and said, "Let us go and see this thing that has come to pass!"

ORDER OF WORSHIP

WELCOME BY PASTOR

OPENING HYMN: #7:1-3 "Rejoice, Rejoice Believers"

INVOCATION: In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.



RESPONSIVE CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: The joy of Christmas comes to those have known the sorrow of their sin and the redeeming love of God who forgives sins. Therefore we come humbly before Him, acknowledging our sinfulness and asking for His mercy.

CONGREGATION: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment, both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

THE MESSAGE TODAY: Based on Zephaniah 3:14-20

"When God Cleans House"

Zephaniah 3:14-20 - Sing, Daughter Zion; shout aloud, Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, Daughter Jerusalem! ¹⁵The LORD has taken away your punishment, he has turned back your enemy. The LORD, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm. ¹⁶On that day they will say to Jerusalem, "Do not fear, Zion; do not let your hands hang limp." ¹⁷The LORD your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing." ¹⁸"I will remove from you all who mourn over the loss of your appointed festivals, which is a burden and reproach for you. ¹⁹At that time I will deal with all who oppressed you. I will rescue the lame; I will gather the exiles. I will give them praise and honor in every land where they have suffered shame. ²⁰At that time I will gather you; at that time I will bring you home. I will give you honor and praise among all the peoples of the earth when I restore your fortunes before your very eyes," Says the LORD.

After the sermon please rise to sing, "**Create in Me**" on page 20 in the front of the hymnal.

OFFERING, PRAYER OF THE CHURCH THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN #540 "Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng "

PRAYER AND BLESSING, page 25

CLOSING HYMN: #25 "The King Shall Come"

BIRTHDAYS: If you see them today, wish the following members a "Happy Birthday!"--
Dec 15–Darnel Laabs; **Dec 16**–Viona Voeks (101 yrs!), Nichole Thompson; **Dec 17**–Arden Kloehn; **Dec 19**–Elaine Schuelke; **Dec 20**–Carla Quinn; **Dec 21**–Sandra Meyer.

PRAYER OF THANKS: God bless Viona Voeks today as she turns 101 years old! God's promise to us: "Even to your old age...I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you." (Isa.46:4)

2019 OFFERING ENVELOPES: We thank the Finance Committee for arranging our giving envelopes for the new year. Pick your box up on the counter in the entryway today!

POINSETTIAS: See the forms on the counter in the entryway for info about purchasing a poinsettia to help beautify our church at Christmastime (Bring to church Sat, Dec 22).

KYRIE (LORD HAVE MERCY)

C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy
on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: “Sing, O Daughter of Zion; shout aloud, O Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, O Daughter of Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away your punishment, he has turned back your enemy.” (Zeph. 3:14-15). “Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands hang limp.” **You are forgiven.** “The LORD your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing.” (Zeph. 3:16-17)

SING: #7:4 “Rejoice, Rejoice Believers”

**Arise, Desire of nations; O Jesus, now appear,
The Hope and Expectation Of ev'ry Christian here.
With hearts and hands uplifted We plead, O Lord, to see
The day of earth's redemption That sets your people free!**

PASTOR & CONGREGATION PRAY: “Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: A - men.

THE WORD

THE EPISTLE LESSON: PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7 (With the peace of Christ in our hearts Christians are able to rejoice in all things!) “Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

VERSE OF THE DAY: Alleluia. “I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.” Alleluia (Mt.11:10)

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

THE GOSPEL LESSON: LUKE 3:7-18

C: Glo - ry be to you, O Lord!

LUKE 3:7-18 (With repentance comes the good news that Christ will come and gather the wheat (believers) into His barn--Rejoice!) “John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? 8 Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. 9 The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.” 10 “What should we do then?” the crowd asked. 11 John answered, “Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.” 12 Even tax collectors came to be baptized. “Teacher,” they asked, “what should we do?” 13 “Don’t collect any more than you are required to,” he told them. 14 Then some soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?” He replied, “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely—be content with your pay.” 15 The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. 16 John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 17 His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” 18 And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

THE APOSTLES' CREED, Page 19 in the front of the hymnal.

HYMN OF THE DAY: #11 “Comfort, Comfort All My People”