



# DECEMBER EPISTLE

ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH, SCHOOL AND EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER (ECC)

DECEMBER 2024



## ***What to Keep in View***

*Jason A. Schockman, Associate Pastor*

Advent is a time of preparing for Christ's coming. It seems like a simple sentence, but we aren't just talking about getting ready for Christmas. Preparing for Christ's coming means taking some time to *keep in view* the reason why the Son of God took on human flesh and dwelt among us. Our sinful condition cannot be made better by trying harder or being kinder, or more generous. We need a Savior. This is why we celebrate the birth of Christ our Savior, rejoicing that He has called us to be His own. We've been united with Christ by the Baptism He instituted. In His death and resurrection, we have been given forgiveness, life, and salvation which He continues to deliver to us in His body and blood in the Lord's Supper. Christ has also given to the Church an Office (pastor) for the purpose of proclaiming His Word, that by faith we would *keep in view* all that Christ has commanded. For He is coming soon to bring us into eternal glory in His presence. We are waiting in eager anticipation, repentance and longing for THAT day. Advent provides us an opportunity to reflect on and *keep in view* Christ's coming at the end of all things.

This Advent season we will consider three questions and the key doctrines that accompany them. First, on December 4<sup>th</sup>, we ask what makes us the Church "*While We're Waiting*"? Then December 11<sup>th</sup>, how does He continue to prepare the Church for his return in "*Proclaiming His Promises*"? Finally, on December 18<sup>th</sup>, how do we (the Church) reflect who we are, and what we've already been given in the "*Wonder of Worship: Receiving Restoration and Giving Grace*"?

In these three questions we get a clearer picture of The Church, The Office of Holy Ministry, and the mission given to them. The theological core of the dissertation I'm writing is at the cross section of these answers. What I hope to share with you in the midweek meditations this Advent season is what we need to *keep in view* as we await His return. Diligently work together. celebrating in truth as we receive Christ in Word and Sacrament. Being strengthened and encouraged by His grace to give the love and hope of Christ to the world around us.

Rev. 



## Dispatches from The Office

Rev. Lance Armstrong O'Donnell, Senior Pastor

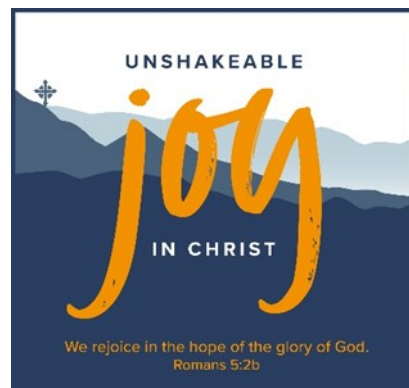
# The Prince of Peace

*"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6, ESV)*

Dear Friends,

This month we remember the promised return of Christ. We prepare for His "second Advent" when the benevolent rule of God is fully manifested and all tears and struggle and sorrow are not even remembered. The Church's season of Advent is important for us in every way.

Toward the end of this month we begin our celebration of the "first Advent," the arrival of the Savior of the world, our "Prince of Peace," in the flesh. The Church's "Christmas Season" is a time of wonder and joy, of fellowship, giving and receiving . . . yet, for many of us, it sure doesn't seem like it. Many—if not most—of us have some degree of struggle in our families. That can make "the holidays" a stressful time. Many of us are not united in faith with our families. For many of us "peace" seems like a dream, not a reality.



And that makes me think of a question I was asked at a recent Bible study: "How do we deal with all the confusion and unbelief in society and in our families?" I said, "I think, fundamentally, we respond to all this in two ways: One, come to church. Two, keep inviting." We are Christ's bride. In the weekly Divine Service we have union with Christ. We are called to repentance, forgiven, and united. We are one flesh with our Creator and Redeemer. In worship we are reminded of what we truly are: beloved children of God. At the Lord's Supper, especially, we bring all our struggles to The LORD, all the unbelief and betrayal and confusion and disappointment. Kneeling before Him, we *"cast all our anxieties on him, because he cares for us."* (1 Peter 5:7)

The incarnation, death, and resurrection of our Savior shows us just how much God cares for us. *God, grant us all hearts to believe this, to rejoice in Your presence, and to give persistent and winsome invitation to those who do not know You as the "Prince of Peace."*

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Lance O'Donnell

Thursday of Pentecost 26  
21 November, A.D. 2024

# Advent & Christmas Worship Opportunities

## Midweek Advent Worship

Wednesdays: December 4, 11 and 18

12:15pm & 6:30pm (hymn sing at 6:15pm)

A meal will precede the evening service at 5pm  
(free-will offering)

## Children's Christmas Service

Tuesday: December 17

9am & 5:30 pm

## Christmas Eve

3pm: Songs of Christmas

5pm: Christmas Eve Candlelight

8pm: Christmas Midnight

## Christmas Day

10am: The Nativity of Our Lord



## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Dawn Wellsfry  
December 3<sup>rd</sup>

Elaine Schmeda  
December 4<sup>th</sup>

Ian McMillan  
December 5<sup>th</sup>

Jean Fisher  
Vicki Walterman  
December 9<sup>th</sup>

Mary Weber  
December 11<sup>th</sup>

William Anderson  
Donald Schmitt  
December 12<sup>th</sup>

Tom Krenzke  
Richard Thurow  
December 13<sup>th</sup>

Mary Ann Ashworth  
Lois Gauerke  
December 14<sup>th</sup>

Carol Allen  
December 16<sup>th</sup>

Jan Muecke  
December 18<sup>th</sup>

Arlene Holzhueter  
December 19<sup>th</sup>

Frieda Antoniak  
December 20<sup>th</sup>

David Sullivan  
December 24<sup>th</sup>

*For our members 70+ years*



## MEMORIALS

Kent Zastrow	\$250.00
Lester Schuett	\$25.00

## ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)

210 E. Pleasant Street

Oconomowoc, WI 53066-3050

262-567-5001

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### WORSHIP & STUDY

Saturday Worship	5:00 pm
Sunday Worship	8:00 am & 10:30 am
Bible Class	9:15 am

Pastor Lance Armstrong O'Donnell 262.567.5001 x217

Pastor Jason Schockman 262.567.5001 x216

Director of Parish Music, Allison Mackie 262.567.5001 x214

Principal - Jill George 262.567.5001 x213

Website: [www.splco.org](http://www.splco.org)

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### LIVE BROADCASTS:

8:00 am Sunday Worship

Live on WTKM 104.9 FM/1540 AM

& [www.wtkm.com](http://www.wtkm.com)

Live-streamed at [www.splco.org](http://www.splco.org)

### EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER (ECC)

Christian Pre-School & Day Care

Director Christine Flores 262.567.4881

Epistle Editor-Heather Scheuer

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Newsletter deadline for articles,  
announcements and features is the  
2nd Wednesday of the month

PLEASE ADVISE THE CHURCH OFFICE OF  
ANY ADDRESS CHANGES



## Lord's Cupboard

This holiday season, the Lord's Cupboard will be providing a Christmas meal food bag to those in need in our community.

We will be requesting Christmas gifts for our pantry families' children and to Shorehaven residents who may not have something under their tree on Christmas morning.

We anticipate that we will be helping more people than ever before, with the current economy.

### CHRISTMAS MEAL FOOD BAG

Please support Christmas meal food bags with a \$15 gift card to Metro Market/Pick 'n Save or ALDI. Please put your gift card or a cash/check donation in an envelope marked "**Lord's Cupboard**" and place it in the offering plate or bring it to the church office.

You can also give a monetary donation online by going to [www.splco.org](http://www.splco.org), click on "**Donate**" button, scroll down to Lord's Cupboard. The list of food items which will be needed for the food bags will be in future bulletins. We appreciate your consideration of the donation of those items.

### CHRISTMAS GIFTS

**The Christmas Caring Trees are located in the Narthex and in the school entryway.**

**This is where you will find the ornaments with the gift requests and this is also the place to return the wrapped gifts.**



**Green Ornaments**— Gift cards (\$25 increments) to Walmart, Target, or Amazon will help 30+ seniors at Shorehaven and the families from our pantry who are most in need. Please put your gift card in an envelope marked "**Lord's Cupboard**" and place it in the offering plate or bring it to the church office **by December 9<sup>th</sup>**.



**Red Ornaments**— support the gifts asked for by families with children under the age of 18. Please put your wrapped gift under one of the **Christmas Caring Trees by December 9<sup>th</sup>**.

**Your generosity helps us serve the people in our community, and we truly appreciate ALL your help in celebrating our Lord this holiday season.**

## Lord's Cupboard and Thanksgiving

The first thanks goes to the people who were there on Saturday morning to pack the 100+ Thanksgiving food bags and were very fast and efficient! Next, thank you to the people who delivered food bags to the 9 senior citizens in Watertown. And, of course, thank you to our Youth Group who delivered the 35 Thanksgiving food bags and a turkey breasts (thanks to a member who donated 50 of these!) to the senior apartments in Oconomowoc. Also thank you to our school kids who decorated a Thanksgiving flyer that was put into each TFB.

It was a rainy and very busy night on Monday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, for the food distribution. All of our volunteers were troopers, even the ones outside who were soaked! There was a constant flow of cars for the entire 1.5 hours. Our Journeymen parking lot guys were so awesome and kept everyone safe and the line flowing! We had tents set up to keep the rain off of the food bags, but the protection didn't help the volunteers who loaded the food into our guests' cars.

These are the numbers for the night:

- 83 households, 5 were first time coming to LC
- 278 people
- 65+ cars
- 160+ meals "to go" of turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, stuffing, green beans and a cookie/dessert item. Thank you to friends who cooked the 14 turkeys. There were only 5 servings left of the turkey. The ladies in the kitchen were kept very busy dishing up all the delicious food.

Besides the TFB and the meal to go, our guests received the normal LC food bag with toiletries, eggs, bread, Kwik trip meals and all the items that we receive from them. These food bags are packed by our 8th graders throughout the school year.

There are an additional 45 households that are receiving some gift cards/food bags that are being delivered by a few volunteers. Also the River Oaks Senior Apartments in Hartland received food to make meals for 32 of their residents.

We received 24 free turkeys from Feeding America and we used 14 of them for the meal "to go". The other 10 turkeys plus the 15 turkey breasts left were handed out to our guests who wanted one.

The other guests received a \$15 gift card to Pick n Save/Metro Market or ALDI if they had 1-4 people in their family with the Thanksgiving food bag. Families with 5 or more received two \$15 gift cards with the TFB.

The gift cards vs giving everyone a turkey is a positive in a few ways. 1.) some people don't like turkey 2.) some people don't know how to cook a turkey or have an oven or the capacity to cook one 3.) a single person or two people in the household won't want to receive a 10+ lb. turkey (about 40% of our guests are senior citizens. This is year round) 4.) we don't have the storage space to keep all the turkeys we would need.

This is what our guests received in their Thanksgiving food bag-cans of green beans, mushroom soup, corn, cranberry sauce, fruit cocktail, Jell-O, stuffing, mashed potato, gravy and the larger families got a can of pumpkin. Different quantities depending upon the number in their household.

Our fabulous teachers and staff, who requested them, will be receiving gift cards and turkeys. We are so very grateful for them!

We are so thankful for every person who volunteered "a little bit" of time or was able to do more. Everything that each person did was important to make this all work!

For the people who pick up the food from Kwik Trip, Feeding America, ALDI, Brownberry/Bimbo, Dollar Tree (some toiletries), Menards (good deal on toothpaste), thank you, thank you, thank you!

**We are so thankful for all the donations we receive, be it in kind or monetary.** We would not be able to help anyone without your generosity!

Please continue with your prayers for our LC guests that we are blessed to be able to help and prayers for our volunteers who treat our guests with respect, kindness and allow them their dignity.

**Our God is great!**

*Have a happy and blessed Thanksgiving!*

# DECEMBER 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>8:00 am Divine Worship 9:10 am Sunday School 9:15 am Blood Pressure Screening 9:15 am Public School Confirmation 9:15 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Divine Worship 7:00 pm HS Youth Group</p>	<p>5:30 pm Lord's Cupboard Drive-Thru</p>	<p>6:00 pm LWML</p>	<p>12:15 pm Advent Worship 5:00 pm Advent Supper 6:15 pm Advent Hymn Sing 6:30 pm Advent Worship 7:30 pm Lutheran Basics</p>	<p>6:30 pm Church Choir Practice 7:30 pm Praise Team Practice</p>		<p>8:00 am Women of Joy Bible Study 3:00 pm Divine Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting</p>
<p>8:00 am Divine Worship 9:10 am Sunday School 9:15 am Public School Confirmation 9:15 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Divine Worship 5:30 pm Parent Partnership Workshop 5:30 pm Middle School Youth Group 7:00 pm HS Youth Group</p>	<p>6:00 pm Lord's Lambs Giveaway</p>	<p>5:30 pm Board of Operations Meeting 6:00 pm Board of Elders Mtg.</p>	<p>11:00 am Caring Through Sharing 12:15 pm Advent Worship 5:00 pm Advent Supper 6:15 pm Advent Hymn Sing 6:30 pm Advent Worship 7:30 pm Lutheran Basics</p>	<p>2:00 pm New Member Sponsor Committee Mtg. 4:30 pm Ladies Aid Christmas Party 6:30 pm Church Choir Practice 7:30 pm Praise Team Practice</p>		<p>7:30 am Journeyman Denny Zastrow Christmas Sing-a-Long 9:00 am Packing Christmas Food Bags 5:00 pm Divine Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting</p>
<p>8:00 am Divine Worship 9:15 am Coffee Fellowship Hour 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15 am Public School Confirmation 9:15 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Divine Worship 11:45 am Youth Deliver Christmas Food Bags 5:00 pm Reformation Tap Society 5:30 pm MS &amp; HS Youth Christmas Party</p>	<p>5:30 pm Lord's Cupboard Christmas Food Bags/M meal</p>	<p>9:00 am SPLS Children's Christmas Service 5:30 pm SPLS Children's Christmas Service</p>	<p>12:15 pm Advent Worship 5:00 pm Advent Supper 6:15 pm Advent Hymn Sing 6:30 pm Advent Worship</p>	<p>6:30 pm Church Choir Practice 7:30 pm Praise Team Practice</p>		<p>8:00 am Women of Joy Bible Study 5:00 pm Divine Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting</p>
<p>8:00 am Divine Worship 9:10 am Sunday School 9:15 am Public School Confirmation 9:15 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Divine Worship 7:00 pm HS Youth Group</p>	<p><b>NO SCHOOL</b> OFFICE OPEN 9-12 6:00 pm Lord's Lambs Giveaway</p>	<p><b>NO SCHOOL</b> OFFICE CLOSED 3:00 pm Songs of Christmas 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight 8:00 pm Christmas Midnight (obs)</p>	<p><b>NO SCHOOL</b> OFFICE CLOSED 10:00 am The Nativity of Our Lord</p>	<p><b>NO SCHOOL</b> OFFICE OPEN 9-12 7:30 pm Praise Team Practice</p>		<p>7:30 am Journeyman 5:00 pm Divine Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting</p>
<p>8:00 am Divine Worship 9:15 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Divine Worship</p>	<p><b>NO SCHOOL</b> OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p><b>NO SCHOOL</b> OFFICE CLOSED</p>				



Anyone interested in the Winter Get-Away, please note the change of location. It is being held at Cranberry Country Lodge in Tomah, WI. New forms are available online or in the Fellowship Hall. Registration deadline is January 17<sup>th</sup>. Anyone wishing to donate items for the *Gifts of Love* ingathering may place them in the marked bin located in the Fellowship Hall. A list of items is available there.

JOIN us on Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, for our annual Christmas devotion and Fellowship at 6:00pm. Bring a treat (sweet or savory) to celebrate Christ's birth! Remember to bring your Red Stocking for our mission offering which we will choose at the meeting AND your Mite Box.

## OCTOBER MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

### **Baptism**

Eleanor Rose, daughter of Grace Carini

### **Received by profession of faith**

Scott & Laurie Feldschneider  
Ian Feldschneider

**Baptized 2003    Confirmed 1214**

## Ladies Aid

Ladies, don't forget the date change for our Ladies Aid Christmas party. The festivities will be on Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 4:30pm at The Rosenkrans Pub located in Shorehaven. At 5pm, we will be seated at our table in Rockwell's Restaurant for dinner and our party. If you haven't already done so, please contact either Mary Lou at 262-308-8184 or Pat B. at 262-354-4203 by Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, to make your reservation and dinner selection. The evening is bound to be one of good food, fellowship and lots of fun. Don't forget to bring a wrapped white elephant gift for exchanging.



## WORSHIP SERVICE TIME CHANGE

Due to the Oconomowoc Christmas Parade, our worship service on Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, will be at 3pm. Please make a note of it.







### Journeymen Denny Zastrow Christmas Sing-A-Long

The Journeymen Denny Zastrow Christmas Sing-A-Long will take place on Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, starting at 7:30am, at Maxim’s at the Depot. This will be a morning of fellowship, singing, and recalling the story of the birth of our Lord. This event is open to all men of the congregation regardless of age! We will then carol to our shut-ins (*tentative*).



### Piggly Wiggly Receipt fundraiser

If you shop at Piggly Wiggly, please deposit your receipts in the designated box in Fellowship Hall. The money raised from your receipts helps to continue the programming for our youth.

Information about the MS & HS youth group is available through:

- Email: [splyouth.group@splco.org](mailto:splyouth.group@splco.org)
- Instagram: splyouthocon

### December Events

1	HS (7:00-8:30pm), Room 219Y
8	MS (5:30-7:00 pm) & HS (7:00-8:30 pm), Room 219Y
15	Deliver Christmas food bags after the 10:30am service
15	ALL YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY (5:30-8:30pm)
22/29	NO YOUTH GROUP

# REFORMATION TAP SOCIETY

Theology and conversation with a bit of hops.



\*ADULTS 18 AND OLDER

**December 15**

### Joy in the Rearview Mirror:

An Adult Child of God Reflects on Holidays in a Broken Home

Presenter: Nathan Meador

First time guests  
get a free  
beer or soda on us!

5:00-7:00 pm  
@ BrewFinity

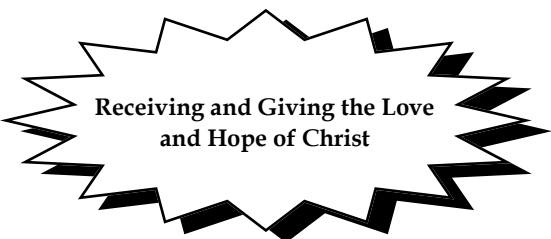
N58 W39800 Industrial Rd., Suite D



St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church, School & ECC  
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Oconomowoc, WI 53066-3050

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Website: www.splco.org



*St. Paul's ECC*  
*Silent Auction*



We invite you to support the St. Paul's Early Childhood Center Silent Auction, which will be held December 11-18, 2024. Our auction runs for one week in our early childhood center and is supported by auction items from St. Paul's families, staff, and the surrounding community. We aim to make improvements to our center including ECC playground renovations and classroom flooring replacement. The total funds needed to complete these projects is \$28,000. You can help us attain our goal of raising \$7,000 for our center renovations by donating an auction item or making a financial contribution.

In past years, funds raised at this event have allowed us to make many positive changes in our center, including replacing flooring in 2 of our classrooms, replacing lockers, adding shade equipment to our playground, and repainting classrooms. Please help ensure the continued success of this fundraiser by becoming a sponsor or financial donor. In appreciation for your support, you will receive recognition on our website, social media, and printed publications.

*Please fill out the information below and return it to the church or ECC office.  
For questions, email Christine Flores at christine@splco.org.  
Thank you for your support!*



Silent Auction Item    In-Kind Donation    Financial Donation

Please list item & cash value: \_\_\_\_\_

Company/Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

How you would like your name listed: \_\_\_\_\_