

December 2019

# “Proclaim”

The Newsletter of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church



## DATES

### TO REMEMBER

#### December 8

Nativity Service  
8:00 & 10:30 AM

Advent by Candlelight  
12:00 PM

#### December 11

Advent Worship  
7:00 PM

#### December 20

Last Day of School  
Dismissal at 3:10

#### December 24

Children's' Christmas Eve  
Service  
4:00 & 6:00 PM

Candlelight Christmas  
Eve Service  
8:00 PM

#### December 25

Christmas Day Worship  
9:00 AM

#### December 31

Worship/Communion  
3:30 PM – Wonewoc  
7:00 PM - Hillsboro

### Inside this Issue

From the Pastor	Cover
Church News	1
Christmas Worship	1
School Scoop	2
More News	3
Birthdays	3
Voters Meeting	3
Calendar	5
Financial	6

## From the Pastor

### LAW vs. LOVE

***“For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision matters. Rather, it is faith working through love that matters” (Galatians 5:6).***

It's getting to be that time of year again. It's the time of great tradition. Between Thanksgiving and Christmas there are all kinds of traditions that are followed. Most of us have traditional family gatherings and destinations. We may have a traditional way of decorating, or maybe our tradition is to add new decorations each year. Then for us there is, of course, the children's Christmas Eve service and the singing of "Glory to God."

Traditions are enjoyable and can serve a good purpose. But it's appropriate to ask ourselves whether our traditions, as well as other traditional views that we hold, are more about nostalgia than real history, more about law than love.

Our celebration of Christmas should not be about tradition. It certainly can include tradition. As I said, traditions are fine and can even be a blessing. But if there's no tree, no grand meal, if there are no gifts, is it still Christmas? Would we still celebrate? If we weren't able to have our traditional Christmas Eve service, if there were no organ and no children singing, would we still be joyful? (Don't worry, this is just a "what if." We are planning and trust, by God's grace, that the Christmas Eve service will go on as usual.)

The point is that there's always a temptation to let the success or failure of the traditions we follow determine whether or not we had a good Thanksgiving or Christmas or Easter or whatever. We can lose our focus on what these celebrations are really about.

Paul wrote to the Christians in Galatia because they were more concerned about following the traditions of the old covenant than living in the truth of the gospel. Paul told them that if they were determined to demand that every male in their congregations be circumcised and that other old covenant traditions be followed as well. Otherwise, they said, you can't be a part of Christ. That's legalism, insisting that our works of obedience play a part in our salvation.

Thankfully, we don't see overt legalism like this in our church or the broader fellowship of our synod. But every church always deals with a lesser legalism, not one tied directly to our salvation, but one that can still point people away from Christ and do great harm to faith. Too often we can let our preferences be the foundation of our Christianity rather than Christ.

Please keep this in mind during this holiday season and as we look to future. Enjoy your traditions. Make new ones if you'd like. You can prefer some things over others, whether it's at home, out in the community, or in church. Just make sure that your traditions and preferences don't obscure the glorious news that we have a Savior from sin in Jesus and that what makes us a part of him – and makes us all his family – is the faith that the Spirit created in our hearts. That's what ties us together. If we lose all traditions and everything that we hold dear and are only left with the truth of the Gospel, that's all we need. "It is faith working through love that matters."

# Church News

## ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Advent by Candlelight event will be held on **Sunday, December 8**, beginning at 12:00 noon. Many churches sponsor this women's ministry activity in early December. This is a time of quiet relaxation with the focus on our Savior as we anticipate his coming. We will begin with lunch and fellowship in the church basement and, following that, we will have a program of songs and readings. Ladies, if you would like to attend as a guest, please contact Jan Fick (office 464-3212 or home 464-3579). **(Note: No fellowship that day as tables will be set for the luncheon).**

## 2020 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Envelopes for next year will be available in the church basement on December 15<sup>th</sup>. If you would like them before then, please contact the church office. Please do not use these new envelopes until after January 1 as envelope numbers have changed. If you cannot find your envelopes, or if the address on the label is not correct, please let the church office know (464-3212).

## POINSETTIA ORDERS FOR CHRISTMAS

If you are planning on having poinsettias or other flowers on the altar for the Christmas worship services, please let Jan Fick know by calling the church office, no later than December 16, so they can be noted in the memorials for the Christmas bulletin. (If you ordered from Blossoms and Bouquets, we have the information for the bulletin already).

## SCRIP CARDS ARE AVAILABLE

If you would like to purchase Scrip Cards, for Christmas gifts, or for your own use, please see Julie Smallwood after church services or contact her at 608-393-3717.

## Baptisms



Maddox Malachi Solchenberger	November 2, 2019
Cooper Thomas Solchenberger	November 2, 2019
Lenaya Anne McKendree	November 10, 2019
Dylan McKendree	November 10, 2019

## Called Home



Janet Ott	October 25, 2019
Terry Wright	October 30, 2019

## Memorials and Gifts



<u>Fund</u>	<u>In Memory/Honor of</u>
Undesignated	Shirley Trettin
School Memorial	Janet Ott
Sound and Media	Janet Ott
Sr. Choir	Janet Ott

## **You Are Invited!** **Special Services in December**

### **NATIVITY SERVICE**

On **December 8<sup>th</sup>** we are having a special Nativity service at the 8:00 and 10:30 service times. Come and hear the Christmas story retold with the help of children and adults dressed in costume and illustrating a narrative about the birth of Jesus.

### **ADVENT WORSHIP**

Our Advent observance will take place on Wednesday **December 11**, at 7:00 PM. We hope that you can join us as we prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of our Savior.

### **CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE**

The Children's Christmas Eve services will be held at 4:00 and 6:00 PM on **December 24**. This year's service is entitled **"See What Great Love."**

### **CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**

Christmas Candlelight worship will be at 8:00 PM on **December 24**. This year's theme is **"A Garland of Carols"**, a cantata for choir and congregation. Congregation members are invited and encouraged to bring their own candles to truly make this a "candlelight" service. **(Battery operated only please for the sake of safety).**

### **CHRISTMAS DAY**

Christmas Day worship will be held at 9:00am with a service of readings and songs.

### **SHARED NEW YEAR'S EVE WORSHIP**

New Year's Eve worship will take place at 3:30 PM in Wonewoc and 7:00 PM in Hillsboro with Pastors Prell and Snyder sharing duties for liturgy and sermons.



## School Scoop

Celebrating 139 Years of  
Christian Education

The Advent season is here. Soon, Christmas will be upon us and all the joy and excitement that this holy season brings. The sounds of Christmas songs and carols have been echoing through our halls. Students are practicing for the Christmas program. They are eager to share the Christmas message through their songs and recitations. The children's Christmas Eve service will be held on December 24, at 4:00 and 6:00 PM. The service is titled "**See What Great Love.**" It is a children's Christmas service focusing on the lavish love of God for his children.

Our school is again looking to donate needed items for others with their "Giving Tree" This year we will be contributing to the Wonewoc Area Food Pantry. Items that are needed are posted below.

The boys are continuing their basketball season in the month of December. The girls' team has begun practice. We thank Steve and Maddie Mitchell (boys' coaches) and Pastor Chip Wilke (girls' coach) for mentoring these students as they learn the game of basketball.

St. Paul's will have a float in the Wonewoc Lighted Parade this year. Look in the bulletin to see when and where we will be decorating it. All help is welcome!

It is our prayer, that during this hectic time leading up to Christmas, the Lord will guide us to keep our eyes focused on Christ and His coming.

### Help Us With Our Giving Tree!



St. Paul's students are asking for your help as they gather personal care items for the Wonewoc area food pantry. Special needs are toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, hair care products and feminine products.

Laundry soap, fabric softener, dish soap and other cleaning supplies are always a need also.

Assistance programs cover groceries but do not cover these items, even though they are basic necessities. If you would like to help, you can bring

**Giving Tree** items to be placed under our school tree until

December 17<sup>th</sup>. Thank You!

## More News

At the voters meeting on November 3, the voters approved installation of 2 video screens at the front of the church to use as a visual aid to service. These TVs will be installed sometime after the first of the year to give time to research the best options and placement of the screens.

For the month of December, the projector screen that is currently being used will not be available and we will be using bulletins entirely. Thank you for your patience as we move forward with this project.

### The Farmer Angel Network



On Wednesday, December 11, 12noon -2 PM, St. Peter Lutheran Church Loganville WI along with the Farmer Angel Network will be hosting **#Farm Neighbors Care** - Farmers, ag business people and anyone interested in supporting the farming community are invited to join us for a light-hearted program featuring Ben Bromley, area newspaper columnist, theater guild actor, and satirist. His often out of the box view on everyday happenings will give all of us a reason to laugh and smile. Farmer resource contacts from UWEX, Sauk County Public Health, and Wisconsin Farm Center will be available to assist farm families. Soup and sandwich lunch will be served.

The Farmer Angel Network is a collaboration of Sauk Co. Public Health, Extension Sauk Co., Project Recovery, local churches and concerned farmers whose goal is to support area farmers through a time of depressed farm income, challenging cropping season and the highest rate of farm bankruptcies and exits since 1930's. Mental health awareness and support resources are the key focus of this effort.

Early in 2019, a series of 3 Farm Stress & Suicide Awareness programs were held at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Loganville, as an effort to address immediate needs of local farmers and agribusiness personnel.

The Farmer Angel Network has since been formed to continue to support area farmers and educate the public about the issues farmers are facing.

### ODD JOBBER NEEDED

If you are a DIY'er and have a little time to lend a hand, there are a few small projects at church and school that we need help with. These include:

- Floor tile under the sinks in the church basement
- Wall tile patches in the school bathrooms
- Some paint touch-up in school and church
- A couple of hardware installs on the stall doors in the school bathroom.

Thank you for your skills, time and willingness to help.



### December Birthdays

This is the day the Lord has made;  
Let us rejoice and be glad in it...Psalm 118:24

- 1 Paige Bender
- 3 Charlotte Allen
- 4 Vicky Durkee, Barb Ott, Patrick Raese
- 5 Amy Elder, Sawyer Frick, Bryan Schultz
- 7 Brantley Demaske, Joyce Fry
- 8 Draven Heiking, Jeff Wafle Jr.
- 9 Brady Baldwin, Mary Mayoletch
- 10 Russell Preuss Jr., Peyton Wafle
- 11 Alvin Hagemann Jr., Brad Hubele, Shirley Trettin
- 12 Christopher Frick, Jamie Ott, Steve Reed Jr., Tessa Snyder
- 13 Albert Peesel Jr.
- 14 Trinity Erie, Stephanie White
- 15 Shelli Nelson, LaVonne Ott, Eugene Peesel, Christopher Rollins, Brittany Schultz, Linda Scott
- 16 Zander Myers, Andy Thayer, Madalynn Weber, Stuart Young
- 17 Chad Peek
- 19 Nolan Hanson, Keegon Stanek
- 20 Jean Burfeind, Jaxon Fry, Tanner Kaun
- 21 Don Hubele
- 22 Nicholas Bolton, Veronica Ennis, Josh Roehling
- 23 Kelsey Thorell
- 24 Leah Rachuj-Peek
- 25 Michelle Herritz, Steve Krueger
- 26 Daniel Preuss
- 27 Devin Fassel, Dan Fry
- 28 Dave Leak
- 29 Ethan Weber
- 30 Mary Shore
- 31 Natasha Wells

If we missed your birthday, we're sorry.  
Please let us know and we will make the correction.

## Quarterly Voters' Meeting Highlights

November 3, 2019

The meeting was called to order by President Steve Fick at 10:48am and opened with a devotion led by Pastor Snyder.

Minutes of the July 29, 2019 Quarterly Voters' meeting were presented in print and accepted as presented.

Pastor's Report presented by Pastor Snyder summarized attendance, ongoing education and pastoral acts in the last quarter.

**Board of Elders'/Stewardship Report** presented by Sam Mobley.

1. Membership Changes:
  - a. Transfer out - Rick and Sarah Zimmerman and Family to St. John's/St. James Lutheran Church, Reedsville,
  - b. Acceptance by Adult Confirmation - Tom Solchenberger
  - c. Releases - Myrtle Doering, Doug, Pat, and Eleanor Westedt, Deb Mistle, Garrett Barry, Shelby Barry, and Jasmine Mistle
2. Elders are working at revamping the usher program and possibly adding help/valet parking to assist those who need it.

**Board of Education Report** presented by Troy Gander.

1. Forming a Committee for the Planning Phase of the Early Childhood Ministry.
2. Will be looking at the aftercare program at November meeting to see if we can pay for an assistant.
3. Will be going over the financial aid requests at November meeting.

**Principal's Report** presented by Pastor Snyder.

1. Things are going well with the current arrangement of teachers and Pastor as principal

**Cemetery Board Report** presented by Tom Wolfe.

1. Information and discussion was held on WELS investment funds for CDs and using Docu-Sign rather than a notary for deeds.

**Treasurer/Finance Management Report** presented by Lee Kucher/Bruce Schroeder.

1. General Fund Debt is \$132,106.92 as of 9-30-2019. No borrowing was needed during this past quarter.
2. Joretta Weber has been approved by the Trustees as a Financial Secretary.

**New Business** (Action Items):

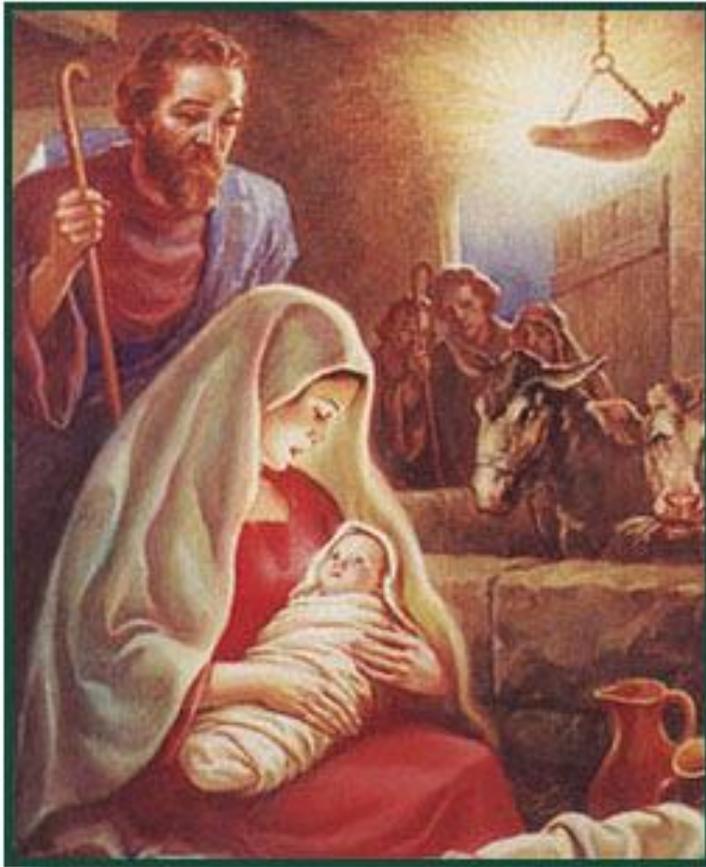
1. The voters approved Trustees recommendation to install permanent video screens at the front of the church for use during worship services and for other presentations.
2. The voters approved a remodeling project to update the mother's room to a more family friendly setting with a separate toilet room, new lavatory, baby changing station, and electric heat. Work would begin in January.
3. Board of Trustees Elections were held with Sam Mobley (2<sup>nd</sup> term), Chris Frick, and Tom Wolfe elected as Trustees.
4. Cemetery Board Elections: Terms are expiring for Chris Frick, Troy Gander, and Tom Wolfe. All have served for four years and have respectfully asked to not be nominated for re-election. Nominations for Cemetery Board are Steve Mitchell (accepted), Brooks Mitchell (accepted), Will Westedt (accepted), and Jeff Waffle Jr. As Jeff was not present, a vote for members was postponed until the next voters' meeting.

Date of next Quarterly Meeting is February 2, 2020.

The meeting was adjourned subject to recall and Pastor Snyder led closing with the Lord's Prayer.

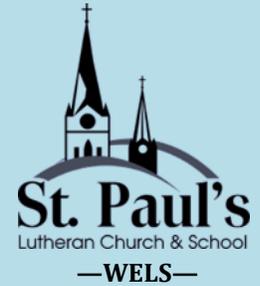
(A copy of full minutes is available on request in the church school office).





## WELS MISSION NEWS AFRICA

Mission work in Continental Africa is changing. Missionaries working with WELS' established missions – **Cameroon, Malawi, Nigeria, and Zambia** – focus on assisting the national synods and their churches as they mature, while also helping with their pre-seminary and seminary programs. The new work before WELS missionaries is outreach, as individuals and church groups in **six additional African countries** have reached out to WELS and the Lutheran Church of Central Africa (LCCA) for fellowship and theological training. These countries include Liberia, Mozambique, Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda, and Zimbabwe. Two additional synods in **Ethiopia and Kenya** reached out for assistance and are now in full fellowship with WELS and partners in these new outreach initiatives. In response to this new gospel call, the One Africa Team was organized to coordinate WELS missionaries and resources. The One Africa Team is accountable for visiting the groups and synods seeking partnerships, teaching confessional Lutheran doctrine, and encouraging mission expansion. Currently, nine called missionaries and one hired Director of Africa Mission Operations serve on the One Africa Team.



**Church address**  
119 South East Street  
PO Box 125  
Wonewoc, WI 53968  
**School Address**  
101 Church Street  
Box 325  
Wonewoc, WI 53968

**Phone:**  
608) 464-3212

We're on the Web!

See us at:  
[www.stplutheranwonewoc.com](http://www.stplutheranwonewoc.com)

Email:

**Pastor/Principal**  
Rev. Peter Snyder  
Email:  
[revsnyder@stplutheranwonewoc.com](mailto:revsnyder@stplutheranwonewoc.com)

**Grades 6, 7 & 8**  
Valerie Hagemann  
Email:  
[vhagemann@stplutheranwonewoc.com](mailto:vhagemann@stplutheranwonewoc.com)

**Grades 3, 4 & 5**  
Jenell Snyder  
Email:  
[jsnyder@stplutheranwonewoc.com](mailto:jsnyder@stplutheranwonewoc.com)

**Grades 1 & 2**  
Helen Rick  
Email:  
[hrick@stplutheranwonewoc.com](mailto:hrick@stplutheranwonewoc.com)

**Kindergarten/Early Childhood**  
Annalies Brander  
Email:  
[abrander@stplutheranwonewoc.com](mailto:abrander@stplutheranwonewoc.com)

**Administrative Assistant**  
Jan Fick  
Email:  
[office@stplutheranwonewoc.com](mailto:office@stplutheranwonewoc.com)



