

**DATES****TO REMEMBER****December 20**

Children's' Christmas
Eve Service

3:00 PM

(Closed to Public)

December 23

Last Day of School
Dismissal at 2:45PM

December 24

Candlelight Christmas
Eve Service

5:00 PM

7:00 PM

December 25

Christmas Day Worship
9:00 AM

December 31

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

From the Pastor

Pastor Jacob Limpert

Psalm 122:1 – I rejoiced with those who said to me, “Let us go to the house of the LORD.”

“There’s no place like home for the holidays.” So goes the classic song, which as far as secular holiday songs go is one of my favorites. (And as far as I’m concerned, Perry Como’s 1954 release is the best version.) It’s a popular song because it expresses a common sentiment: there really is no place like home. More than the place itself, it’s the people, the family gathered together, that gives home its special feeling. Even more so during the holiday season. Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year’s are wrapped up in so many traditions, some common to just about anyone who celebrates them, others that may be uniquely handed down in your family.

Of course, we can’t always be home for the holidays. In any year there may be commitments, distances, or other issues that prevent us or others from getting home for the holidays. This year is certainly no exception. Was there anyone missing from the Thanksgiving table? Are you already planning virtual visits for Christmas? There’s no place like home for the holidays, so when we can’t be home it can leave us feeling empty, knowing we’re missing that certain something. For others, it may be hard to even imagine what that feeling is like. “Home” was never a particularly joyful place; the stress that so often accompanies the holiday season only made it worse. Such a cozy, sentimental Christmas picture never quite lined up with their reality.

This year, as you consider your Christmas celebrations, and how different from normal they may end up being, I want you to think about that idea of being home. What exactly does it mean? It’s certainly more than the food, the presents, and the traditions. It even goes beyond the people who are physically present in a particular place. Home is about the connections between people. Home is about that feeling of belonging.

Whatever our earthly homes may be like, whatever our earthly families may do, there is another family we are members of and a home where we can always feel welcome. They are found in the house of the Lord. When we gather together as a congregation, for worship or any other reason, we are coming together as a family. We don’t just call each other “brothers and sisters” because it sounds nice; that’s what we are! We are all members of one family in Christ. So let us help and support one another as a family does. Let us rejoice like David with those who say to us, “Let us go to the house of the LORD!”

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Church News

(From the Pastor continued from cover page)

Because when we gather together with our family, when followers of Jesus come together to praise our God, it is a little taste of what is to come. It is a small sample of the joys of our true home. Jesus has told us, "In my Father's house are many mansions. If it were not so, I would have told you. I am going to prepare a place for you" (John 14:2). Jesus is preparing a place for you. He is getting ready a place in heaven to call your home. He wants to welcome you there when he returns. As you prepare to celebrate Christmas, remember why Jesus was born. He was born to save you from sin. He was born to make you a member of his family. So let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord with the joy of Christmas the whole year through.

Merry Christmas, and welcome home!

SERVICES FOR THE HOLIDAYS

If you've thought about it, you've probably come to realize that we won't be able to have our Christmas Eve services in the way that we normally have.

We've made a difficult decision that we think is in the best interest of everyone. We are planning to have one Children's Service, held on December 20. Because of spacing and available seating, only the parents and siblings of our school children will be allowed at the service. We will be recording the service and it will be available to the public on You Tube on Christmas Eve. We know that it's not ideal, but we hope that everyone will understand.

We will have a Christmas Eve candlelight service that will be open to the public. There will be songs by soloists, duos, and trios, but there will be no full choir. Right now, we are planning on having one service at 7pm. However, if we get feedback that indicates that we would have a large turnout, we will consider having two services.

Christmas Day worship will be held at 9:00am the same as in years past.

On New Year's Eve we will hold a 3:30pm service in Wonewoc and a 7pm service in Hillsboro.

Thank you for your understanding. While things aren't normal, let's be thankful that we can still worship our Lord, even if it's a little different from what we are used to, and let's remember that he is still in control.

2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Envelopes for next year will be available in the church basement on December 13th. 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 14, 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).

TEACHER CALL

Mr. Cory Pieper has accepted the call to teach grades 3-5, but he must fulfill his present obligations and will not be able to begin until the fall of 2021. The plan is to have Miss Brander move to the Kindergarten classroom after Christmas to take Mrs. Fricke's place and we will be looking for someone to take the Pre-K classroom. Please pray that the Lord will direct us to the right person for the need.



Called Home

Yvonne Feldman
November 10, 2020



In Memory

We gratefully acknowledge memorials and gifts to our ministry in memory/honor of the following members and friends:

Rev. LeRoy Martin
Clete Plantenberg
Yvonne Feldman

Other Notes

BOARD OF TRUSTEE HIGHLIGHTS – 11-17-20

Call to order at 6:33pm by Vice President Sam Mobley. with 8 members present. Meeting was opened with a devotion.

The minutes of the October 20, 2020 Trustees Meeting were presented and approved.

Pastor's Report presented by Pastor Snyder.

1. Baptisms (2) - Silas Roland Westedt 11/01/20, Raelynn Monica Weiland 11/01/20.
2. Funerals (1) - Yvonne Feldman 11/13/20.
3. BIC (2) - Mondays, Pastor Limpert.

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

Board of Education Report presented by Troy Gander.

Principal's Report presented by Pastor Snyder.

1. We have several students quarantining right now, due to close contact outside of school.
2. Mr. Corey Pieper holds the call to teach grades 3-5 and serve as athletic director.

Treasurer/Financial Management Report presented by Dale Wells/Bruce Schroeder.

1. General Fund Debt is \$43,142.43 as of 10/31/20.
2. We received a special offering of \$15,000 that was applied to the General Fund Debt, bringing it down to \$28,142.43 on 11/6/20.

Unfinished Business.

1. Fish Dinner went well and a motion was approved to use donations for the 150th Anniversary.
2. We have quotes for doors and access control. We are requesting a quote to have the control access broken down into 4 blocks, but are also looking into ways to install the doors and all access control at one time.

New Business (Action Items).

1. The in front of the meter socket at the church will be removed because it is a safety concern.
2. Ethan Danklefsen will accept a nomination to be on the Cemetery Board. We still need one more.

Discussion/Informational Items.

1. We continue to look into the possibility of establishing an Early Childhood Ministry (ECM) program.
2. Plans are underway for the 150th Anniversary Celebration for our congregation and the 110th Anniversary Celebration of our current church building in 2021.

3. The Board of Trustees is working to re-establish a building and grounds review and planning committee.

Next Trustees Meeting December 15, 2020 at 6:30pm and next Voter's meeting will be February 7, 2021 after the 10:30 service.

The meeting was adjourned and closed with prayer



December Birthdays

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

- 1 Paige Bender
- 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., Raelynn Weiland
- 9 Brady Baldwin, Mary Mayolet
- 10 Russell Preuss Jr., Peyton Wafle
- 11 Alvin Hagemann Jr., Brad Hubele
- 12 Christopher Frick, Jamie Ott, Tessa Westedt
- 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
- 25 Michelle Herritz, Steve Krueger
- 26 Daniel Preuss
- 27 Devin Fassel, Dan Fry
- 28 Dave Leak
- 29 Ethan Weber
- 30 Mary Shore
- 31 Jacob Limpert, Natasha Wells

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



School Scoop

Celebrating 140 Years of
Christian Education

We are almost through the first “half” of the school year! While the halfway point doesn’t come until January, we are thankful for the blessings we’ve had and everyone is looking forward to the Christmas break. Until then, here are some things you should know...

As has been stated elsewhere, Christmas at church will not be normal this year. The Children’s Christmas Eve service will be recorded on Sunday, December 20th at 3pm. DVDs will be made and available in the church mailbox next to the sacristy door (the white side door). The service will also be posted on our YouTube channel (just go to youtube.com and search “st paul’s wonewoc”) on December 24th. On Christmas Eve and Christmas morning there will be services open to the public.

As we look to the second semester and acknowledging the lost sports seasons and the uncertainty of the spring, we will look into the possibility of having special sporting events for our students to help break up the potential monotony of the winter months.

With the news of vaccines that will be used already this month and next on front-line healthcare workers as well as nursing home and senior living residents, there seems to be light at the end of the tunnel. For those who are skeptical about these vaccines, there is an excellent article by Pastor Robert Fleischmann, national director of Christian Life Resources (CLR), a WELS ministry. You can find it on the CLR website. Just go to christianliferesources.com, scroll down and click on “COVID-19 Resources,” and then scroll down to “STATEMENT ON MRNA VACCINES,” and click on it to read the article. It explains the value of mRNA vaccines and why a person can receive them with confidence and in good conscience. The conscience part is explained in the article.

Our prayer is that, as the vaccines are produced—the goal that I read is 1.5 billion in 2021—that we’ll be able to get back to something that looks far more normal than what we’ve had. It may not look completely normal until next fall (please, dear Lord, let it be normal!), but, again, our prayer is that things will continue to look better as the winter progresses and turns into spring. Until then, out of love for our neighbors, we will continue to take the measures we have to stay as safe and healthy as possible, understanding that it all still remains in the Lord’s hands, which is the best place for it to be.



Help Us With Our Giving Tree!

This year, for our school Giving Tree, we are teaming up with Wonewoc-Center School to collect items for their “Backpack” program. This program sends kid-friendly, non-perishable meals and snacks home over weekends or holidays for families that might be experiencing hunger. Ideas for items are peanut butter, mac & cheese, canned spaghetti sauce or pasta meals, fruit cups, etc. You can bring donations to school or leave them in the basement. Deadline is Dec. 18. Also, if there are families in our school that might have need of this program, please contact Ann Lankey at Wonewoc-Center. (lankeann@wc.k12.wi.us) Thank you.



The Birth of Jesus (Luke 2:1-20)

2 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ²(This was the first census that took place while ^[a] Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

⁸And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

¹³Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

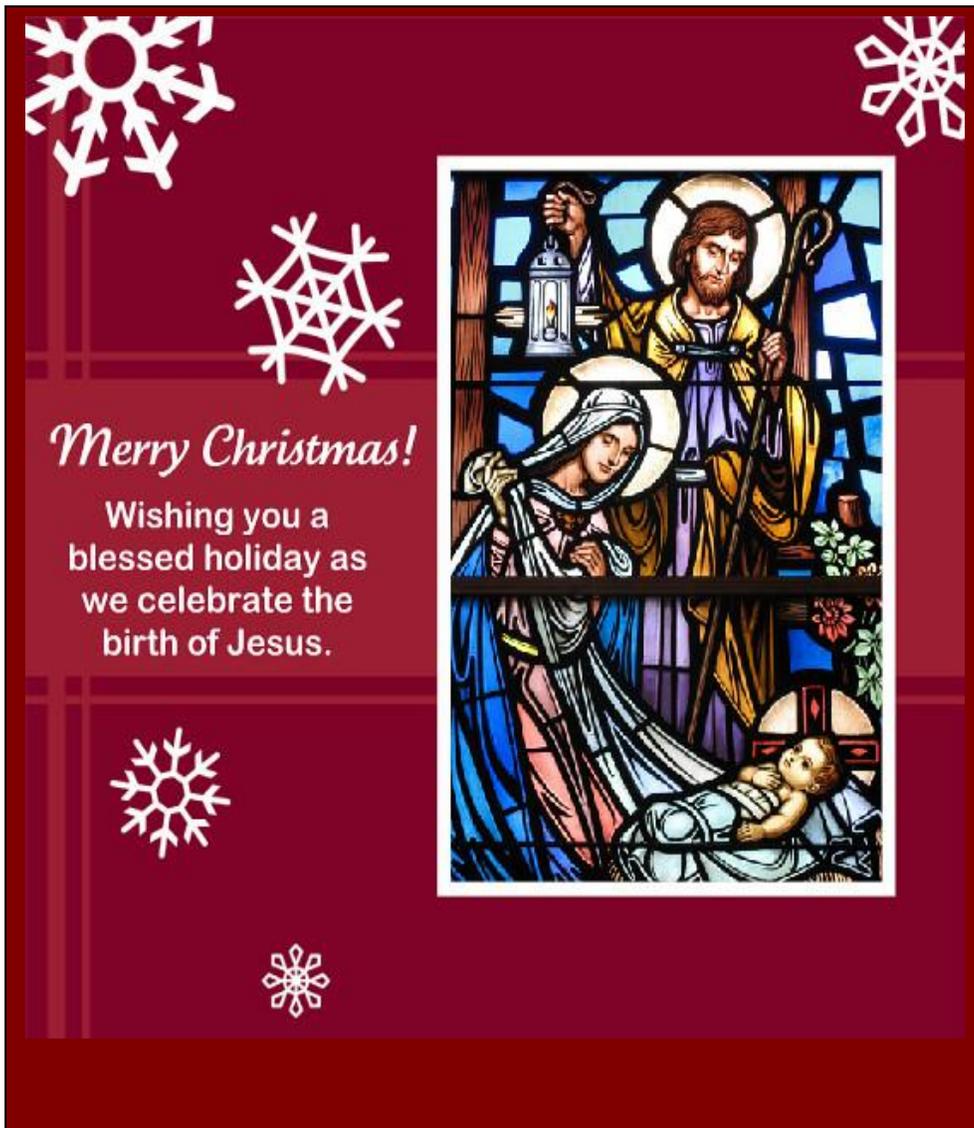
¹⁶So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

May the glorious story of our Savior's birth resonate within your heart this Christmas and always



December 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8:00 AM Worship with Communion 9:15 AM Fellowship & Adult Bible Class 10:30 AM Worship with Communion 11:30 AM Voters Meeting		1	2 1:30 PM Ladies Aid	3 9:30 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Worship	4 8:05 AM Chapel Decorate Church for Christmas	5 Decorate Church for Christmas
6 8:00 AM Worship 9:15 AM Fellowship & Adult Bible Class 10:30 AM Worship	7	8 10:00 AM Circuit Meeting-Reedsburg 6:30 PM Panther Parents	9 9:00 AM Shut-In Visits	10 9:30 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Worship with Communion	11 8:05 AM Chapel	12 8:00 AM Elders
13 8:00 AM Worship with Communion 9:15 AM Fellowship & Adult Bible Class 10:30 AM Worship with Communion	14	15 6:30 PM Trustees	16 9:00 AM Shut-In Visits 6	17 9:30 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Worship	18 8:05 AM Chapel	19
20 8:00 AM Worship 9:15 AM Fellowship & Adult Bible Class 10:30 AM Worship 3:00 PM Children's Christmas Service	21 Newsletter Article and Calendar Deadline	22 8:05 AM Chapel	23	24	25 Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship (Times to be determined based on 1 or 2 services. Please check our web page for information).	26 9:00 AM Christmas Day Worship
No School – Christmas Break						
27 8:00 AM Worship 9:15 AM Fellowship & Adult Bible Class 10:30 AM Worship	28	29	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE 3:30 PM Worship with Communion @ Wonewoc 7:00 PM Worship with Communion @ Hillsboro	Jan. 1	Jan. 2
No School – Christmas Break						



St. Paul's
Lutheran Church & School
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Wonewoc, WI 53968
School Address
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Box 325
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608) 464-3212

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CLEANERS NEEDED

The 2021 year-long schedule for church cleaners has been posted on the bulletin board in the entry way. Anyone who would like to help keep our beautiful church clean and ready for worship is encouraged to sign up for at least 1 week out of the year. This is a practical way of serving our Savior and our church family that doesn't require much time, but has a big benefit for everyone. Thank you for considering this.

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

We are looking for families or individuals that would be interested in hosting fellowship after the 8:00 service on Sunday mornings. It's not too hard. You provide snacks and beverages for approximately 25 people. Coffee supplies are there, but if you feel unsure of making the coffee, the "church basement ladies" can set that up for you. There is a sign-up sheet on the registration stand in the stairway. You can also call Bev Ward (608-548-3641) or Joyce Sturtz (608-768-5573) if you have questions or would like someone to set up coffee. Thank you.

SCRIP CARDS ARE AVAILABLE

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

December 2020



Evangelical Lutheran Church
119 S. East Street PO Box 125
Wonewoc, Wisconsin 53968

Return Service Requested

December 2020

TO:

