



# St. Paul News

The Newsletter of  
St. Paul Lutheran Church  
Ida Grove, Iowa  
712-364-2918

[www.stpaulig.org](http://www.stpaulig.org)  
[stpaulidagrove@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulidagrove@gmail.com)

**November**

**2023**

---

## Give Thanks with Grateful Heart?

By Pastor Neil Wehmas

"Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One." We sing those words about this time of the year. But how could one ever give thanks these days? Life isn't always going so well. At current the news is an ongoing cycle of the war going on in Israel and Ukraine. How can one give thanks?

Depression, anxiety, mental health of all sorts is at an epidemic level. Teens and pre-teens are doing unthinkable things to their own bodies. Marriages that look strong to the world are falling apart at the seams. Our lives look like that of grand luxury, but in reality, we are barely making ends meet. The state of Iowa is becoming over-run by individuals running for president and declaring that they are the one to make this world better. However, if we are honest with ourselves, none of them give us full confidence. What is there to give thanks for with a grateful heart?

I write this on a computer, while sitting in a hotel in Sioux City for circuit visitor training. Think about that, a computer. I have a computer that I can connect with people from anywhere on the planet. I can collect information was faith enriching videos, and side-splitting videos at the click of a mouse. I don't even need the computer; I can pull out my smart phone to do all the same things. Though the weather is turning cold, I know that I have a heated home to dwell in. I have a winter coat, shoes, socks, and plenty of other clothing.

Yes, there are wars going on, but nations have experienced long periods of peace. We have experienced long periods of peace on our home turf. We have plenty of food to eat, clean water to drink, and a roof over our head. Many of us have at least one loving family member. Many of us have at least one really good friend. Some of us have health, and if you read this, even the gift of life itself.

Above all, God the Father has created you, as the unique "you", that you are. He created you in His divine image. He loves you more than you can possibly comprehend. He loves you more than your best friend, more than your children or parents or spouse. God loves you more that you love yourself. Jesus looked at you weighed down by sin and destined for everlasting death. He did not take the easy part, but became human flesh, in order to die for you on a cross. By his death and resurrection, you have the promise of eternal life. A promise delivered to you in the hearing of the word and the waters of Baptism, by the work of the Holy Spirit.

Of this we are privileged to lift up his name in praise. We are privileged to take part in his ministry. We are privileged to tell the good, good story of Jesus and His love for the world. We are privileged to continue to hear his word. We are privileged to receive his sacraments and the forgiveness of absolution.

Oh, the world is indeed challenging, and filled with grief and sorrow. However, the blessings of God are so incredible and great, even if we can't always see it. Read your Small Catechism, read about the Apostles' Creed and its meanings. As you read it, you will indeed see you are blessed. Therefore, you just might, "Give thanks with grateful heart, give thanks to the holy one, because he has given Jesus Christ his son." Amen.

# CHURCH NEWS

Due to a recent “hack” of Pastor Wehmas’ phone/texting we are not including numbers for volunteers in our newsletter, if you are in need of a phone number, please call the church office 364-2918 or there will be a listing at the church on the bulletin board by Pastor Wehmas’ office is and also one on the bulletin board in hallway by old conference room. We are sorry for any inconvenience this has caused.

**FROM OUR CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** on Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup> with President Steve Turner, we will move forward with extending a call for Sole Pastor of Ida Grove, which we learned can be extended to Pastor Wehmas. We have official acts to go through for this. We have available on the Welcome Center a Congregational Survey, and there is a box for you to place your survey once filled out, also there is a Nomination of Pastor for Consideration (yellow sheet), on that sheet you can submit any pastor’s name that you would like to nominate, including Pastor Wehmas’ name and this will be submitted to our Call Committee of the Elders and forwarded to President Turner at the District Office.

**FREE WILL OFFERING FOR THANKSGIVING MEAT CERTIFICATES for Mid Sioux, Saturday, Nov. 4 and Sunday, Nov. 5, during the announcement time.** We will have a container in the Narthex for donations as well.

**VOTERS’ MEETING on Sunday, November 12, 2023 at 10:15AM** in the fellowship hall, this will be a 2024 budget approval meeting.

**THANKSGIVING PIE SOCIAL (hosted by the Elders) after Worship on Wednesday, Nov. 22,** sign up sheet to donate pies, will be on the narrow table in the Narthex.

**CHRISTMAS CONCERT** We are having a Christmas Concert on **Sunday, December 3, (TBD)**. We are looking for members who would like to share their musical & singing talent with us. If you can let us know if you would like to participate so we know how to plan. Please contact Tracy Johnson, Tammy Hoffman, Trisha Hoffman or the church office.

**CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM** will be on **Sunday, December 3** during the Christmas Concert.

**LET’S STAY CONNECTED OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU TO CONTINUE TO FILL UP WITH JESUS By READING AND LISTENING TO THE BIBLE: Mission Central...** [www.missioncentral.us](http://www.missioncentral.us) WEB SITES: **Iowa District West**—[www.idwlcms.org](http://www.idwlcms.org) **Camp Okoboji** – [www.campokoboji.org](http://www.campokoboji.org) **“THY STRONG WORD”** is a daily devotion airing at 6:25 am Monday through Saturday on KDSN (104.9 FM) **“THE LUTHERAN HOUR”** can be heard every Sunday on radio station—KDSN-FM (104.9) at 6:30 am and 1530 at 10:30 am. It is available 24 hours a day on the internet in Real Audio. Visit [www.lhm.org](http://www.lhm.org) and click on the Lutheran Hour on the left side of the page **“THE GOOD SHEPHEARD HOUR”** airs on the following stations every Sunday: 8 am Fort Dodge-KVFD 1400 AM; 8 am Sioux City—KSCJ 1360 AM; 10:30 am Storm Lake—KAYL 101.5 FM: **MainStreet Living— is a Television Program** that is endorsed by the Iowa West District of the LCMS This program is broadcast on KCAU, the ABC network affiliate in Sioux City on Sunday morning, starting at 10:00 AM. The first 30 minutes are remastered episode of “This is the Life” The second half of the program is a modified Lutheran worship service that features a different Pastor each week, from the area.

Daily Devotions: [www.lhm.org/dailydevotions](http://www.lhm.org/dailydevotions)

[www.youversion.com/the-bible-app/](http://www.youversion.com/the-bible-app/)

If you have any Daily Devotions or other Bible app’s you like, please share with the church office a suggestion box is outside the office on the narrow table

## BOOK OF THE MONTH FOR NOVEMBER



A deeply personal account of one man's faith, *Extra Nos* recounts hip-hop Christian rapper FLAME's journey from Calvinism to Lutheranism.

After a serious car accident when he was 16, FLAME dedicated his music to Christian doctrine. Follow his path of being discovered as an artist to attending Concordia Seminary. In *Extra Nos*, FLAME dissects the misguided lyrics he used to write and details the truth he found in Lutheranism.

While FLAME's faith journey and life may be unique, readers will recognize the forgiveness, kindness, and healing nature of Lutheranism.

### About the Author

Grammy-nominated FLAME has released nine albums since 2004. After three years of studying Lutheran theology at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, FLAME became confessionally Lutheran. In 2020, he was received into the Lutheran Church and proceeded to write his EP *Christ for You* on the sacraments.

### Praise for *Extra Nos*

"For evidence that Lutheranism is the kind of Christianity that has the most relevance today, read FLAME's *Extra Nos*. With a rapper's mastery of language, he offers vivid and rapturous explanations of the Word and the Sacraments and the Gospel of Christ they convey. And he offers the best refutation of Reformed theology I have ever come across—not just by argument but by experience."

—Gene Edward Veith, author of *The Spirituality of the Cross*

## Schedule of Holy Day Worship Services 2023

### Wednesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> @7:00pm

Thanksgiving Eve Worship w/Praise Band

Pie Social following the Worship Service, served by Board of Elders

### Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> @7:00pm

Shoes, Lights, & Herring: St. Nicholas of Myra

**Advent Evening Prayer Service**

### Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> @7:00pm

Shoes, Lights, & Herring: St. Lucy

**Advent Evening Prayer Service**

### Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> @7:00pm

Shoes, Lights, & Herring: Katherine von Bora Luther

**Advent Evening Prayer Service**

### Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent Worship @9:00am

**Christmas Eve Service w/Candlelight @2:00pm & 6:00pm**

### Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup> @10:00am

Christmas Day Festival Service w/Communion

### Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas Worship @9:00am

**New Years' Eve Service of Light w/Communion @6:00pm**

**STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY is Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>** and we will have pledge forms in the bulletin and available on the Welcome Center. Philippians 1:5 – “I thank my God ... because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.” God doesn’t need anything we have. Yet He invites us to give so that we can indeed become “partners in the Gospel.” This is a gift of His grace: inviting us to do significant work in the kingdom of God.



**COMMUNITY BASKET NEEDS FOR NOVEMBER: soups, stews & crackers**, place your donation in the shopping cart in the Narthex. *All items are appreciated as well, as they can always use donations.* The Community Basket is open on Thursdays (except 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday), from 2:30-5:30PM. **The mobile food pantry will be on November 16 at the Odebolt Community Center from 4:30-5:30PM.**



**COFFEE AND FELLOWSHIP** Coffee & Fellowship on Sunday mornings at 10:15AM is in the Fellowship Hall. Come and join us! If you would like to help or provide, please let Deb Clausen or Kathy Edsen know. The High School Youth will provide & serve on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday's of the month and the Junior High Youth will provide & serve on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month.

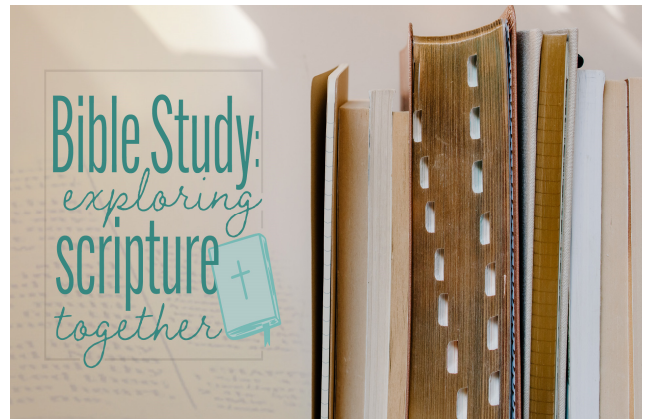
**WEDNESDAY EARLY MORNING BIBLE CLASS** meets at **7:00AM** at Jimmy's

**WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS** meets from **9:30-10:30AM** in the Conference Room in the lower level.

**THURSDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY: MORE THAN BREAD BIBLE STUDY AT SUBWAY** will meet at **6:00PM**

**SUNDAY MORNING HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH** in the youth room from **10:15-11:15AM**

**SUNDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE CLASS** join us in the lower-level Conference Room **10:30-11:15AM**







Lutheran Youth Fellowship

November 2023

**First Communion—8<sup>th</sup> Grade**      Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup> @9am

**Senior High Youth Gathering (November 17-19)**

Several High School Youth will be traveling to Des Moines for the Senior High Youth Gathering.

**Midway: Friendsgiving (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade)**

Middle School youth are invited to celebrate a Thanks...Friendsgiving together. Stay tuned for dates, times, and other information.

**Wednesdays on the Highway (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade)**

Wednesday, November 8<sup>th</sup> from 7-8pm at St. Paul Lutheran Church

Wednesday, November 29<sup>th</sup> from 7-8pm at St. Paul Lutheran Church

---

---

**LWML LADIES BIBLE STUDY FOR NOVEMBER**

---

---



**RUTH (2)** will meet on Nov. 2 at Jimmy's at noon and meet at the church for Bible Study at 1:00PM.. Susan will be BSL. We had 10 present for our October meeting.

**LOIS (3)** will meet on Nov. 2 in the Conference Room at 1:30PM. Nancy will be hostess and Linda will be BSL. We had 8 present for our October meeting.

**EUNICE (10)** will meet on Nov. 2 at the Willowdale Assisted Living, Battle Creek at 2:30PM. Lois will be hostess and Karen will be BSL. We had 7 present for our October meeting.

**JOHANNA(12)** will meet on Nov., 2 at 7:00PM, in the fellowship hall, Marge will be hostess and Marge will be BSL leader. We had 5 present for our October meeting

**LWML EXEC. BOARD MEETING, on Monday, November 27 at 4:30PM**

**NATIVITY DISPLAY** The Ladies will be displaying the wonderful selection of Nativity sets **this year**, starting the first week of December. We welcome anyone to come and enjoy the nativities and bring a group of your friends, the ladies do such a wonderful job.



Nicole Knop



# Holiday porch pots & centerpieces



**When: Sunday, December 3**

**(2 sessions: 1:00 to 2:30 and 2:30 to 4:00 PM)**

**Where: The Depot at Moorehead Park**



**What: Bring your own pot with dirt or foam.** Please keep your pot under 13" across to allow greens for everyone. Greens, twigs, bows, and pinecones will be provided, but feel free to bring any of your own décor to fancy up your holiday pot.

**Cost is \$25 for Porch Pots**

**Cost is \$15-\$20 for Centerpieces**

**and sign up is required (to prepare supplies)**

All proceeds will go towards the Sr High LYF for future gatherings and activities