



DECEMBER

## St. Paul News

St. Paul Lutheran Church

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2024

### Put the "Mass" Back in Christmas

By Pastor Neil Wehmas

That time of the year is upon us again. It is time for our annual celebration of Christmas. We celebrate that incredible reality that God became human flesh. The reality that the one who spoke everything into existence became a little itty-bitty baby lying in a manger. This He did all for you.

However, what tends to come with the Christmas season is a number of culture wars. Someone says, "Happy X-Mas", people will argue that they are X-ing out Christ. When truthfully the X is a reference to the first Greek letter for Christ. It is an abbreviation developed by medieval Christians. Some will get upset over "Happy Holidays", the word "Holiday" is a compound word that literally means "Holy Days".

It was in truth, Christians began the Happy Holidays greeting. This was due to the multitude of Holy Days that land around this time of the year. From December 17<sup>th</sup> until January 6<sup>th</sup>, the church calendar contains the following "Holy Days" or "Holidays": Daniel the Prophet (Dec. 17), Adam & Eve (Dec. 19), Katharina von Bora Luther (Dec. 20), St. Thomas (Dec. 21), Christmas Eve (Dec. 24), Christmas Day (Dec. 25), St. Stephen (Dec. 26), St. John (Dec. 27), Holy Innocents (Dec. 28), King David (Dec. 29), New Year's Eve (Dec. 31), Circumcision & Name of Jesus (Jan. 1), J. K. Wilhelm Loehe (Jan. 2), The Epiphany of Our Lord (Jan. 6).

For those of you keeping count at home, that is 14 holidays in less than four weeks. "Happy Holidays" is a simple way of sharing a greeting of well wishes to fellow Christians for all of the days that are to come.

During this time of the year, you might also hear people say, "Put the Christ back into Christmas." This is a fine statement indeed. With all of the movies, TV shows, get-togethers, meals, gift-giving, and decorations, it is so very easy to let the promise of the Christ be lost in the season.

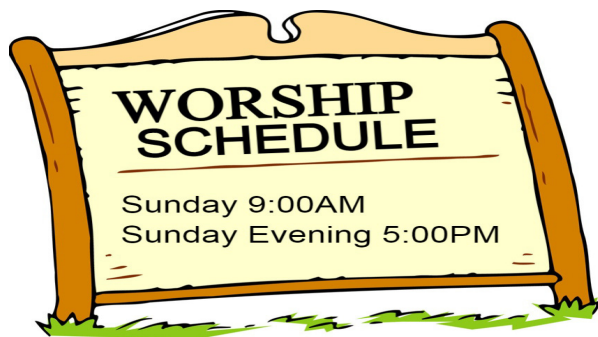
However, it is here where we come to the title of this article, "Put the 'Mass' back in Christmas". The holiday is called "Christmas" not only because we focus upon the good news of Jesus Christ, hence "Christ" in Christmas. It is also because we are spend these days in worship.

We gather together with other Christians to sing hymns of praise unto the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. We gather to hear his scriptures, especially Luke 2 and John 1. We gather for hear the word proclaimed in Law and Gospel. That God became human flesh in the person of Jesus to redeem us sinners. We gather for prayer in the name of Jesus to God the Father. We gather to keep the "Mass" in Christmas. We gather for the Lord's Supper.

It is such a humbling and incredible truth, that the God who spoke everything into existence is the same one in the manger. The one in the manger is the one who went to the cross for you and for me. The one who spoke everything into existence, was laid in the manger, and was crucified for you and for me, He gives himself to us in the bread

and wine. For it the body and blood which was born and crucified for you and me, is in, with, and under the bread and wine of the Lord's Supper. This meal is a mystery so profound, and yet so humbling. We receive God for the forgiveness of our sins and the strengthening of our faith in simple bread and simple wine.

It is for this reason that we not only keep the Christ in Christmas, but we make sure to keep the Mass in Christmas. For in Christ's means of grace: proclamation of the word, holy baptism, and the Lord's Supper, we keep Christ in us and our lives. There is nothing more important than this at Christmas or any other time of the year. A blessed Christmas all of you. ~Pastor Neil



**THIS MONTH**  
**USHERS**  
 For the month of December  
 9:00AM Greg & Lorna Steenbock  
 5:00PM



**COMMUNITY BASKET DONATIONS for DECEMBER:** Breakfast items: **baking/pancake mix, syrup, cereal, cereal bars, peanut butter, jelly, etc.**, place your donation in the shopping cart in the Narthex or hallway. 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. **\*\*They can always use toilet paper, laundry soap, shampoo & conditioner, canned vegetables, canned fruits & canned soups.** Mobile Food Pantry: Holstein, Methodist Church, on Thursday, December 19 from 4:30-5:30PM



**ADVENT BEGINS ON December 4**  
**Hymn sing at 6:15PM and Advent Worship at 6:30PM**

**ADVENT MEALS**

December 4 Spaghetti  
 December 11 Baked Potato  
 December 18 Pulled Pork, Beans & Cole Slaw





**"The Whole Story" Journey Begins**  
**New Year's Eve Worship**  
Tuesday, December 31<sup>st</sup> @6:00pm



**Cross Explorations & Catechism Classes**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grades**

**Class Time is 4:00-5:00PM**

They can walk up after right after school

There will be snack time

If they need to stay til 5:15PM to wait for a sibling,  
an adult will be present with them

**6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grades**

**Class Time is 4:00-5:15PM**

**On Early Out school day's it will be from**

**1:30-2:30PM 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grades**

**1:30-2:45PM 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades**

**DATES OF NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT CLASSES/CATECHISM on Wednesday,  
December 25, January 1**

**REMINDER OUR WEATHER CANCELLATION POLICY:** If school is dismissed early  
or cancelled it automatically cancels Midweek classes for grades 3<sup>rd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grades  
Also watch our Facebook page for those announcements as well St. Paul Lutheran  
Church, Ida Grove, Iowa LCMS



**10:15AM-11:15AM**

4yr old Preschool – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade in Nursery upstairs  
3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Grade in same classroom as last year on lower  
level

5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade in same classroom as last year on  
lower level

7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grades are to attend Bible Class in the  
Fellowship Hall

9<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> Grades in Youth Room

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM will be on Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> during the  
Worship Service.**

**DATES IN DECEMBER OF NO SUNDAY SCHOOL:  
December 22, December 29 and January 5**

## JR High and SR High Youth Pancake and Sausage Breakfast



**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday's of the month – except for December it will be December 8<sup>th</sup> (following the Children's Christmas Service)  
SERVING FOLLOWING WORSHIP SERVICE/CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

There will be no Sunday School as we encourage you to enjoy Pancake and sausage breakfast as a family.  
**FREE WILL OFFERING FUNDRAISER FOR YOUTH ACTIVITIES,  
YEARLY GATHERINGS AND NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING**



**The HighWay Sr High Youth (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>)  
Meets 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays at 7PM**



**The MidWay Jr High Youth (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>)  
Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of month 5:15-6:15PM**







**UPDATING INFORMATION:** we always ask to update our records with any new addresses, even if its been within 6 months – year, any changes in phone numbers, etc.to make sure we have all correct information of birthdates and anniversaries. Also if you would not like your birthday or anniversary publicized in the weekly bulletin or the monthly newsletter please let the church office know. [stpaulidagrove@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulidagrove@gmail.com) or 712-364-2918

**MONTHLY NEWSLETTERS AND CALENDAR** are always available to be picked up at the church in the narthex. If you would like to view online our website is [www.stpaulig.org](http://www.stpaulig.org) If you would like it emailed to you please contact the church office, email us or fill out the “update our information form” Copies of the form to update information is available on the Welcome center and can be placed in the wooden offering box

**HOSPITALIZATION REMINDER :** if you are admitted to any hospital please let us know or have a family member or a friend let Pastor Neil or the church office know, so we know you are there to visit, or would just want prayers from Pastor.



**LOOK UPON LOVE**

Let us then meditate upon the Nativity just as we see it happening in our own babies. I would not have you contemplate the deity of Christ, the majesty of Christ, but rather his flesh. Look upon the baby Jesus. Divinity may terrify people. Inexpressible majesty will crush them. That is why God took on our human flesh and blood, that God should not terrify us but rather that with love and favor God would console and comfort us.

—Martin Luther



# DECEMBER

## Birthdays

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| Dec. 1 Espe Hoffman<br>Lois Wendel                      | Dec. 17 Carly (Brosius) Taggart  |
| Dec. 2 Clinton Bieret<br>Darnelle Knudsen<br>Pam Woebke | Dec. 18 Gloria Feddersen   |
| Dec. 4 Mary Johnson<br>Clint Wellendorf                 | Dec. 19 Jeff Gilbert   |
| Dec. 5 Camdyn Montgomery<br>Bentlie Wilcox              | Dec. 22 Dale Edsen   |
| Dec. 6 Bob Eriksen<br>Retha Harrington<br>Arylla Osborn | Dec. 23 Peggy Fick   |
| Dec. 7 Susan Miller                                     | Dec. 25 Linda Ausborn<br>Lori Boysen<br>Bruce Godbersen<br>Shirley Van Sickler |
| Dec. 8 Taylor DeVine                                    | Dec. 27 Claudia Swanger  |
| Dec. 9 Norman Carstensen                                | Dec. 28 Brantly Wilcox   |
| Dec. 10 Barbara Knudsen                                 | Dec. 29 Ashley Dose<br>Geneva Miesner  |
| Dec. 11 Autumn Schreiber                                | Dec. 30 Jennifer Bieret<br>Janet Nielsen<br>Pam Reitz                          |
| Dec. 14 Sawyer Larsen                                   | Dec. 31 Dennis Miesner<br>Kriss Phillips                                       |
| Dec. 15 Brian Christiansen                              |  |

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## Anniversaries

- December 2 Larry & Linda Paulsen
- December 5 Al & Sandy Schreiber
- December 6 Marc & Marsha Kjar
- December 7 Jason & Maggie Buns
- December 10 Kevin & Valerie Krager
- December 15 Kris & Tina Krager
- December 19 Kent & Karlie Krager
- December 24 Duane & Ellen Ernst



### A GLORIOUS HOPE .....

Let us today go down to Bethlehem, and in company with wondering shepherds and adoring Magi, let us see him who was born King of the Jews, for we by faith can claim an interest in him, and can sing, "Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given." Jesus is Jehovah incarnate, our Lord and our God, and yet our brother and friend; let us adore and admire. ... Let us reverently bow before the holy Child whose innocence restores to [humankind] its ancient glory; and let us pray that he may be formed in us, the hope of glory.

# Christmas Word Search



O E O T E L T S I M C B T F M Q O M P H A F C H  
 F U Y O E A T I N S E L K X J J E J A K J B O D  
 P J L L N M J N W W O N S V D S L C Y T S O R F  
 P J K U W B A D F U O F T X S T V P E R A P B G  
 G R K H A X K M Y A R M V W B N E X L I B D U S  
 N E T S O G Z E Y U D B C Q W E S T T W L I Y U  
 I Q H Q Z J H P V H R A O R I S U Y Q M F G P S  
 K J R D T I G D N C O W V G N E A X Y K P H G E  
 C E J Y R A D O M W E A M T T R V Y H K G B V J  
 O E B G H O A O R M H J R G E P L N C W S D R Q  
 T R E K T N G F E Z G F G U R H O L R S K D E L  
 S T H G I L D U P X Y C B A F B B S U T G D G F  
 K S K Q A Z E E A A M U O F E R L A H T P U X J  
 F A L N I L C A P N Z S F A S E O N C Z X I Z G  
 S M D O E B O M G A K U Y Y T N Q T X D R N R U  
 Y T V Y D X R Q N M J K T X Q B O A W R U Z Z I  
 P S I Q S W A I I W T X R E O N I H C E A L D A  
 F I Q A B I T M P O O V A K R N F I M E Q H V G  
 G R H Z S E I X P N K E P A G M J Y S D Y O R U  
 W H Y Z X Z O O A S F L W U D Z E O Z N W L K N  
 X C U A V C N G R Z M T W T X Q Q E D I W L O J  
 F G D S Y H S K W F G S L O R A C K Y E P Y R T  
 T P N R F A M I L Y H N J O J S Y O T R R F K S  
 S A M T S I R H C Y R R E M N Z S V N G T K S J

- |                |          |                 |          |
|----------------|----------|-----------------|----------|
| wrapping Paper | presents | family          | stocking |
| food           | party    | church          | jesus    |
| decorations    | light    | mistletoe       | holly    |
| winterfest     | snowman  | merry christmas | toys     |
| frosty         | snow     | christmas tree  | carols   |
| elves          | reindeer | santa           | tinsel   |