



The Lord Opens the Womb:



This Advent we will be focusing on three women in the Old Testament.

The first is Sarah, the wife of Abraham and the mother of Isaac.

The second is the unnamed wife of Manoah and mother of Samson.

Finally is Hannah, the wife of Elkanah and mother of Samuel.

All of these prepare us for Mary and the virgin birth of Jesus, the Son of God. As each of these women had no prospect of bearing a child yet had the gift of faith that nothing is impossible with God, so the Scriptures enable us to exercise the patience of faith under whatever trials beset us. This patience makes Advent a season of hope.

Advent 2019 Midweek Series

Date	Time	Theme
Dec. 4	12:15 & 6 PM	Is Anything Too Hard For The Lord?
Dec. 11	12:15 & 6 PM	His Name Is Wonderful
Dec. 18	12:15 & 6 PM	Heard By God

Light Supper will be served after 6:00 PM service



Pastor's Page



Many of you know that Andrea and I have become foster parents since the end of May. Our family has grown instantly from two adults and two dogs to one teenager, two adults, three kids, and two dogs. Our wide, spacious, quiet and peaceful house suddenly became crowded and busy. Our calendar is marked with all kinds of events and appointments.

A couple days ago, my wife asked me, "Kenny, how come the maintenance light in my car is on? Didn't we just change the oil not long ago?" "Well," I smiled, "that's because you have been an on-going shuttle bus for the kids."

God has put those four precious children in our home, and we enjoy them being around. However, with these children also come with great responsibilities. We've been praying for God's wisdom, guidance, patience and love to take care of them. We are learning everyday how to manage all our resources in a God-pleasing manner. But I have to admit that there have been many times that we are just trying to survive with the busyness of life. We've become too busy for God. We have forgotten to put Jesus first.

Two thousand years ago when Jesus was born, people were busy with their lives, just like today. The town of Bethlehem, because a census was taking place, was packed with people. The innkeeper was busy trying to find rooms to accommodate as many visitors as possible. The travelers, after days of journey, were busy trying to rest. They had no room and no time for Jesus.

Today, two thousand years later, are we ready for Jesus?

After all, we know Christmas is coming. So, what do we do?

Our December calendar is jammed packed with shopping, baking, cooking, parties, and all kinds of events and activities. As a result, we are too busy, too tired for Jesus.

Don't get me wrong. I am not against Christmas celebrations. I love receiving Christmas presents, singing Christmas songs, and eating Christmas meals. However, having this word "Christmas" before "presents", "songs", and "meals" doesn't make December 25th a Christmas. In other words, we often focus more on everything else than Jesus Christ Himself. It's like when we receive a present, we admire the wrapping more than the gift itself.

God has put those four children under Andrea's and my care. Not just to provide them food and shelter, but we are to raise them to know God and be part of the family of Christ.

Yes, life is busy, but as Jesus said to Mary's sister Martha in Luke 10:41-42

"Martha, Martha, you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one." (NIV)

There are so many things to do for Christmas, but few things are needed – or indeed only one – Jesus.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Pastor Kenny Hsu



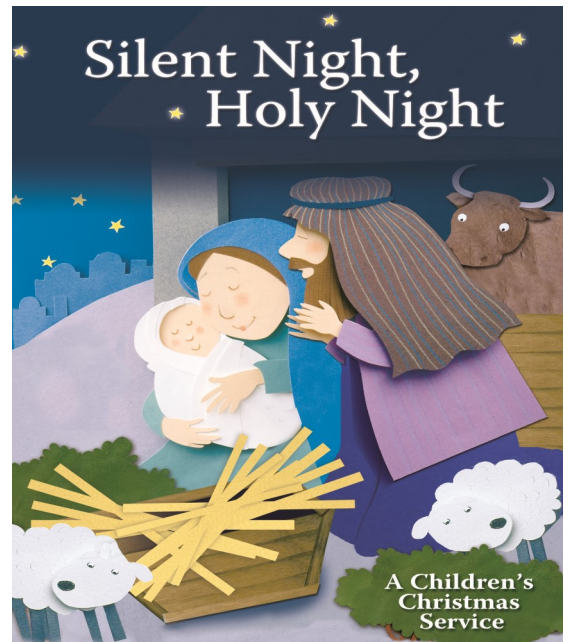
YOUTH EVENTS



DATE	6 p.m. Saturday	8:15 a.m. Sunday	10:45 a.m. Sunday
Nov 30 -Dec 1	Marla Anderson	Eliza Gunn	Reagan Granstrom
December 7-8	Carter Sulzbach		Jacey Kennedy
December 14-15	Sara & Emma Sparr		Cameron Black
December 21-22	Christian Spencer		Jacey Kennedy
December 28-29	Marla Anderson		Elijah Coleman

Silent Night, Holy Night Sunday School Program

will be Saturday, December 7
at 6 p.m.
and Sunday, December 8 at
10:45 a.m.



DECEMBER 4
WEDNESDAY

SERVING ADVENT DINNER

Spaghetti Bake
More to come as it gets closer.

Set Up Begins at 5pm.

Free Will Offering
Money will be Added to
Youth Account.

advent



DECEMBER

The youth group will be serving a Spaghetti Bake at the **December 4** Advent Dinner. Set up begins at 5 p.m. A freewill offering will be taken. The money will be added to the Youth Account.

The Youth, 6 to 12th graders, will have their **Christmas Potluck December 15** from noon to 3 p.m. in the School Gym. Bring food to share and a \$10 unisex gift.

DECEMBER 15
SUNDAY

CHRISTMAS POTLUCK

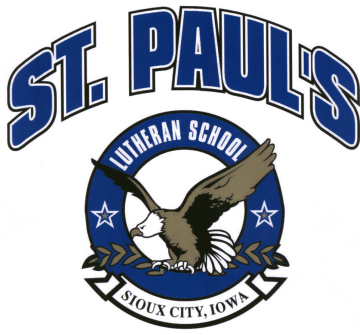
6-12 GRADERS

12PM - 3PM

SCHOOL GYM

612 JENNINGS

Bring food to share
and a \$10
Unisex Gift.



Friends in Christ,

Christmas Blessings! It's finally here! People have been anticipating the celebration of the coming of Christ since God first made the promise in the Garden of Eden. Let's take time this Christmas season to get more acquainted with Christ (take time for prayer & reading the Bible...read Luke 2 as a family) and spread the Good News of the saving Gospel in Jesus Christ. "At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord." Phil. 2:10-11

Wow! This semester is going fast! Please, write these dates down:

Dec. 4th– Children tied quilts to take to Cancer Center. We will be walking by skywalk to the June E Nylen Cancer Center to sing & deliver quilts. Permission notes about walking to Cancer Center will come later.

Dec. 12th – School Christmas Program (The Joy of Christmas) at Church @ 7:00 p.m. The children are meeting in the basement. Please, have your child there by 6:45 p.m. Thank you. Everyone is welcome!

Dec. 20th - Christmas Party/ Gym @ 9:00 a.m. **You may send an offering for a gift to Lutheran World Relief. We will buy an animal (s) for a village. Our gifts will improve lives of people living in poverty around the world. If you would like to help with the party, call Jana McKay or Alicia Behrens.

Dec. 20th – Last day before Christmas break - Dismiss at 1:00 p.m.

Jan 6th – Classes start

In January, we are collecting new toothbrushes, toothpaste, hand soap, washcloths, dish cloths, hand towels, combs, hairbrushes, bottles of shampoo and cream rinse, laundry detergent, or dishwashing detergent. We also need small laundry baskets. These items will be packed by the children for Lutheran Schools Week and given to the Women's shelter for families entering the shelter. Bring these items to the large box by the trophy case. May God bless our efforts.



We are still collecting hats, mittens, scarves, gloves of all shapes & sizes for the Mitten Tree. These will go to Women's Shelters in South Sioux City and Sioux City. Thank you for your donations.

On behalf of the staff at St. Paul's Lutheran School, I would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Joyous New Year! Enjoy sharing Jesus this Christmas season!

A Fellow Worker in Christ, Alyce Strong Davis

School Christmas Program: Joy of Christmas

December 12, at 7 p.m.

in the Church.

Come join us for a night of pure joy!





ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL SCHOOL CALENDAR



- December 20** Last Day of Classes before Christmas Break
Early Out – 1:00 p.m.
- December 25** Holiday – Christmas
- January 1** Holiday – New Year's Day
- January 6** Resume Classes
- January 16** End of 2nd 9 weeks – 45 days
Early Out —1:00 p.m.— Teacher In-service
- January 17** Early Out —1:00 p.m.—Teacher In-service
- February 28** No School
- March 23** End of 3rd 9 weeks – 45 days
Dismiss at 1:00 p.m. – Teacher In-service
- March 30** 3rd Quarter Parent Teacher Conferences
Dismiss at 1:00 p.m.
- April 9-13** Easter Break
- May 22** Early Out – 1:00 p.m.
- May 25** Memorial Day
- May 28** End of 4th 9 weeks – 44 days
Last Day of School – Dismiss at 1:00 p.m.
- May 29** Snow Make Up Day or Teacher Work-day
- June 1** Possible Snow Makeup Day

THRIVENT MEMBERS

Did you know that all Thrivent members can apply for two Thrivent Action cards a year? The Action cards are \$250 gift cards that can be applied to educational needs, service events or fundraiser needs in your community. You may take a St. Paul's Lutheran School teacher shopping for school supplies or volunteer to buy some groceries for the Waffle Brunch, or volunteer to fund a service event for the school children. Action cards have been used for the Mitten Tree and blankets for the Cancer Center. There are many opportunities to use the cards at St. Paul's Lutheran School. Just ask Mrs. Strong Davis for a list of events and apply at www.Thrivent.com.

Thank you for your generosity, Alyce Strong Davis, principal (712)899-3396.

Hy-Vee Receipts

Hy-Vee Receipts Program *Hy-Vee Receipts Program:* Keep saving your Hy-Vee receipts (also includes prescription receipts but excludes receipts on gas and stamps) now through April 26, 2020. Drop-offs are located in the church office or in the church or can be sent with St. Paul's students. The receipts accepted are the receipts from the four Sioux City Hy-Vee locations and the South Sioux City Hy-Vee location. Thanks for your support.

Support our school with Scrip!

How it works ...You buy gift cards from the school, and the school earns money. We carry a variety of cards in the office. To order, call Sarah Gunn at (712) 223-1238 or stop in the church office. Orders placed by noon **Friday, Dec. 6** may be picked up **Thursday, Dec. 12**. Scrip is a year-long fundraising program that supports St. Paul's Lutheran School and its families. Scrip cards are simply purchased for everyday expenses, such as food, clothing, gifts, gas, etc. To order go to www.shopwithscrip.com or stop in the office.



12/01	David and Valerie Lethcoe	35
12/05	James and Jodi Becks	32
12/06	Michael and Angela Piklapp	24
12/09	Ron and Karen Sherrill	59
12/11	James and Jean Wetrosky	48
12/12	Richard and Patty Sulzbach	49
12/17	Mark and Lori Treft	31
12/18	Wilbur and Frances Westhoff	37
12/20	Ethan and Chaney Neff	5
12/23	Wally and Marge Delzell	58
12/27	Joe Jr. and Sheryl Rose	20
12/27	Brian Davis and Alyce Strong Davis	5
12/28	Matthew and Megan Beck	6

(If you see any discrepancy in names, day or years in our birthday or anniversary list, please let the church office know, so we may update our records.)





December

BIRTHDAYS

Dec. 1

Nancy Carter
Marrisa Dodds
Kaydence Jager

Dec. 2

Joyce Haines

Dec. 3

Cassie Mahaney

Dec. 4

Ryan Bratvold
Cynthia Olson
Thomas Worden

Dec. 5

Jessica Bliven
David Kyte
McKenna Sulzbach
Joseph Zediker

Dec. 6

Chris Conlon
Brad Figge
Shirley Mc Cormick
Kelsey Orr
Beverly Rabe
Doug Schuldt

Dec. 7

Clarence Anderson
Mia Hogan
Jennifer Marks
Kenneth Sherman Sr.
Mary Winckler

Dec. 8

Randi Hood
Brady Lyons

Dec. 9

Darin Grohs
Kerry Johnson

Dec. 10

Amanda Swearingen

Dec. 11

Mark Durio
Patsy White

Dec. 12

Rich Schuldt
Sharon Sparr

Dec. 13

Bonnie Knutson

Dec. 14

Debra Blanford
Dawn Hindman
Kale Larson
Liz Roscovius
Judy Seaman
Zach Swearingen

Dec. 15

Earl Horiyk
Violeta Jordan

Dec. 16

Kevin Godwin

Dec. 18

Zoey Ford
Jane Yingst

Dec. 19

Seth Haskins
Larry Herbst
Christine Ramirez
Richard Ramirez
Connie Spahn
Fauna Tuttle

Dec. 20

Jerrica Barnes
Frankie Rabe

Dec. 21

Nancy Arndt
Marci Burton
Mary Ann Goulette
Sandra Johnson
Lisa Jurries
Madison Meek

Dec. 22

Jason Gilmore
Tracy Yingst

Dec. 23

Michelle Winkel

Dec. 25

Wendell Simmonds

Dec. 26

Angela Treft
Miley Van Etten

Dec. 27

Laura Sulzbach

Dec. 28

Bill Wheatcraft

Dec. 29

Gilbert Nelson

Dec. 30

Ryleigh Shine

Dec. 31

Kevin Bock Sr.
Kim Bowser
Barbara Hageman
Nolan Shook



December 2019

Notes from St. Paul's

Sunday School Christmas Program – "Silent Night, Holy Night"
will be Saturday December 7 at 6 p.m. and Sunday December 8 at 10:45 a.m.

Blood Pressures

Mary Haller and Janet Black will be taking blood pressures at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, December 8, in the back of the church. Be sure to get yours checked!!

Christmas Eve Services will be 6:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.

Christmas Day Services will be at 9:00 a.m.

Evangelism

Hello everyone and Merry Christmas. December is the month to give. We give to our family and friends. But let us not forget those who are in need. The homeless, the children and men and women in shelters. Keep them in your prayers and give thanks to our God and Jesus. For he is the reason for this season and every month.

From Evangelist Committee Marlis Hilden



Main Street Living — Local Lutheran Worship

"This is the Life," followed by Lutheran Worship Service, led by local LCMS pastors. 10 a.m. Sunday mornings on KCAU Channel 9.

Watch these programs on demand at mainstreetliving.com.



Young at Heart Club

will meet Sunday Dec. 15th after the late service in the church basement fellowship hall for our belated "Thanksgiving" noon meal. Turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, and gravy will be provided. Those in attendance should bring their favorite Thanksgiving side dishes, The committee.

Missionary News

It was a busy month: election of a new bishop for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ingria in Russia (ELCIR); classes on the prophets and on the Wisdom & Poetry Literature of the Old Testament; and the news that we will be headed for Riga, Latvia after the first of the year.

The Ev. Lutheran Church of Latvia has secured accreditation for its theology program at the Luther Academy in Riga for the EU. A partner church of the LCMS, the ELCL is the largest confessional Lutheran church in the Baltic region. We are being moved to Riga to join with Rev. Dr. John Bombaro (LCMS) in assisting in teaching at the Luther Academy, but also to work on beginning an English-language theology program to help form pastors who can work in English from other countries in Europe and beyond.

Connie and I are working on securing the necessary documentation (visa, etc.) and making the necessary moving arrangement to transition to Riga sometime in late January, early February. Thank you for your continuing prayers and support. Yours in Christ, Chuck & Connie Cortright

Support Our Missionaries

- Rev. Shauen & Krista Trump (www.TheTrumps.org)
- Rev. Charles & Connie Cortright (charles.cortright@lcms.org)
- Rev. Tim & Lisa Beckendorf (tbeckendorf@LBT.org)
- Rev. Paul Flo (Pastorpaulflo@gmail.com)

St. Paul's Lutheran Women's League

November 7, 2019

Carolyn Stuhr thanked Wilma Siefker as hostess for our November meeting. Pastor Kenny and 5 members were present.

Carolyn opened the meeting with a reading.

Pastor gave a devotion.

The Secretary and Treasurer's report were accepted.

Circle Reports:

Anna Circle – Making Quilts

Elizabeth Circle – Prayer Chain

Mary/Martha Circle will meet at Eastside Perkins on Nov. 18th at 6:00 p.m.

No Old Business

New Business

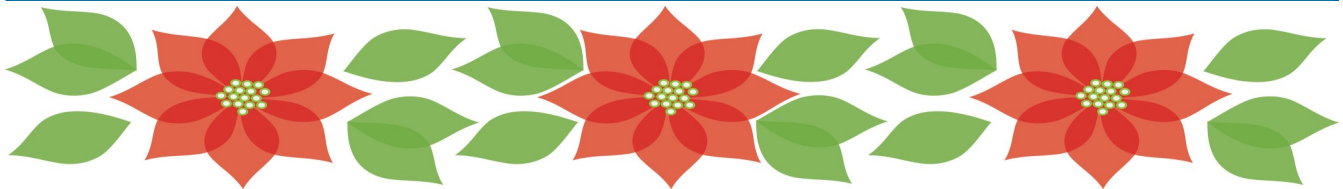
The Spring Rally date is April 25, 2020.

We sang "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" and "We Praise Thee, O God, Our Redeemer, Creator".

The meeting was adjourned.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Marlene Mertens, Acting Secretary



Open the Door of Your Heart

It's December and preparations for Christmas are underway. Unfortunately, for some, this is a period of great stress, inadequate sleep, and too much busyness. Is this what Advent is all about? Jesus said, *"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with Me"* (Revelation 3:20). What a pleasant request! Shut the door of the world. Open the door of your heart. Let the King of Glory come in! He is the One we honor and proclaim! He is the One due our allegiance and our service. Enjoy fellowship with Jesus!

"O come let us adore Him."



Prayer: Lord, thank You for sending Your Son to show me how much You love me. Help me to respond faithfully to Your love. Help me to minimize the distractions during my Christmas preparations so that I can focus on You. In Your name precious name I pray. Amen.

Blessings on your stewardship Journey!

December 2019

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

<p>1</p> <p>8:15 a.m. Worship/ Communion 9:30 a.m. Education Hour* 10:45 a.m. Worship/ Communion 5:00 p.m. Elders Meeting</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>5 p.m. Confirmation 12:15 p.m. 6 p.m. Advent Service</p>	<p>5</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Bible Study, Fellowship Hall 12:30 p.m. Women's League 7 p.m. Bible Study at Pastor's home</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>6 p.m. Worship/ Silent Night , Holy Night Sunday School Christmas Program</p>
<p>8</p> <p>8:15 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Education Hour* 10:45 a.m. Worship/"Silent Night, Holy Night" Sunday School Christmas Program Friends of Christ Caroling</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9 a.m. Sewing</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Board of Ed Meeting 7p.m.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Lamplighters at Trinity Lutheran, Hinton 5 p.m. Confirmation 12:15 p.m. 6 p.m. Advent Service</p>	<p>12</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Bible Study, Fellowship Hall 7 p.m. School Christmas Program "The Joy of Christmas</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>6 p.m. Worship/ Communion</p>
<p>15</p> <p>8:15 a.m. Worship/ Communion 9:30 a.m. Education Hour* 10:45 a.m. Worship/ Communion Noon Young at Heart Meal</p>	<p>16</p> <p>6 p.m. Mary Martha Circle</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>5 p.m. Confirmation 12:15 p.m. 6 p.m. Advent Service</p>	<p>19</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Bible Study, Fellowship Hall 7 p.m. Bible Study at Pastor's home</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>6 p.m. Worship</p>
<p>22</p> <p>8:15 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Education Hour* 10:45 a.m. Worship</p>	<p>23</p> <p>9 a.m. Sewing</p>	<p>24 </p> <p>6 p.m. and 11 p.m. Christmas Eve Service</p>	<p>25 </p> <p>9 a.m. Christmas Day Service</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>6 p.m. Worship</p>
<p>29</p> <p>8:15 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Education Hour* 10:45 a.m. Worship</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 </p> <p>6 p.m. New Years Eve Service</p>		<p>* Education Hour: High School Bible Study, two adult Bible Studies, Praise Team, and Sunday School, all at 9:30 a.m.</p>		

LOVE OUR NEIGHBORS AS OURSELVES

2019 Outreach Opportunities at St. Paul's

Month	Events	Dates	Group
January	Women's Shelter	Month of January	St. Paul's School
	Lamplighters		
February	Her Health	Month of February	Social Concern
	Soup Kitchen	Feb. 25 & 26	
	Lamplighters		
March	Lamplighters at St. Paul's	March 6	
April	Easter Egg Hunt	April 13	Fellowship Club
	Lamplighters at Trinity	April 3	
May	Soles 4 Souls	Month of May	Social Concern
	Lamplighters at Calvary	May 1	
	Soup Kitchen	May 28	
June	Block Party	June 9	Evangelism Committee
	V.B.S.	June 10-14	Sunday School
	Lamplighters at Concordia	June 5	
July	Lamplighters at Faith	July 3	
August	Soup Kitchen	Aug. 26 & 27	
	Lamplighters at Hope	Aug. 7	
September	"Moving On" baskets for CSADV	Month of September	Social Concern
	Friendship Sunday	Sept. 21-22	Evangelism Committee
	Lamplighters at Redeemer	Sept. 4	
October	Trunk or Treat	6 p.m. Oct. 25	Evangelism Committee
	Lamplighters at St. Paul's	Oct. 2	
November	Dried food for Gospel Mission	Month of November	Social Concern
	Soup Kitchen	Nov. 25 & 26	
	Lamplighters at Trinity	Nov. 6	
December	Mittens & Hats for Women's Shelter	Month of December	St. Paul's School
	Lamplighters at Calvary	Dec. 5	



During the month of December, Mittens and Hats will be collected for our local Women's Shelter. Let's fill the Christmas Tree (in the front of the church office) and share the abundance of God's love to those in need.

Servants for the Month of December

Altar Guild:

Pam and Dallas Schulz

Elders:

Sat., 6:00 p.m.: Randy Johnson
Sun., 8:15 a.m.: Dennis Hageman & Daryl Heimgartner
Sun., 10:45 a.m.: Don Lantis & Frank Tenuta

Ushers for December

12/01	1st Service	Jack Smith Team
	2nd Service	Jack Smith Team
12/08	1st Service	Jack Smith Team
	2nd Service	Jack Smith Team
12/15	1st Service	Tim Draube Team
	2nd Service	Bill Hanna Team
12/22	1st Service	Nick Gunn Team
	2nd Service	Bob Grothaus Team
12/29	1st Service	Steven Segebart Team
	2nd Service	Randy Johnson Team



DECEMBER 2019 Newsletter

Church Office 252-0338
 School Office 258-6325
 Email: mychurch@cablone.net
 Websites: Church: www.siouxcitystpauls.org
 School: www.spsisouxcity.org

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 Sioux City, IA 51101-1820