



PERSPECTIVE

Newsletter of

St. Paul Lutheran Church—ELCA

200 N. Commercial Street • Neenah, WI 54956

(920) 725-3961 • stpaulneenah.org



DECEMBER 2021

From Pastor Amy



writing a Christmas letter....Whew! I'm exhausted already!

What if this year was different? What if this year we simplified our Christmas preparations so that we can take time to be still and make room for the birth of our Savior in our lives and in our hearts? What if this Advent and Christmas season we took time to breathe in the hope, peace, joy and love that Christ's birth brings? It would transform us in ways we can't even begin to imagine.

Our lives are as busy as ever. Not even the pandemic has slowed us down. On top of all the other things going on in our lives, December brings with it a flurry of additional activities – decorating the house, putting up a Christmas tree, hanging lights, baking cookies and other Christmas goodies, buying presents, wrapping presents, sending Christmas cards,

The popular Christmas carol, "Joy to the World", instructs us: "*Let earth receive her king. Let every heart prepare him room....*" How will you prepare room in your heart, in your life this year to receive Christ? Every day provides the opportunity for Christ to be born in us, to come to us, to fill us with his good gifts. Will there be time and space for Christ to be born anew in you? Or will there be "no room in the inn"?

Each day during Advent, take a few minutes to stop. Sit down, light a candle, and breathe. Pray. Read from the daily devotion written by St. Paul Church members and friends. Read the Bible. Pray some more. Open up your heart to receiving the Christ child. Even just 5-10 minutes can make a world of difference in your life.

I pray that this Advent season you will flourish with time and space for Emmanuel to come and truly be God with us.

Happy Advent and Merry Christmas!
Pastor Amy

Let's Deck the Halls!

Join us on Saturday morning, December 4, at 9:00 a.m. as we decorate for the Advent and Christmas Season. No one is too old or too young for this job, and many hands make light work! Come when you can and stay as long as you are able.

Questions? Call the church @ 920.725.3961.

For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will
be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful
Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince
of Peace.

Isaiah 6:9



BIRTHDAYS

December 1

Kelly Krabbe
Nancy Orlady
Dillon Patel

December 2

Donna Bauer
Kalen Peterson

December 3

Darlene Peterson

December 4

Jamaica Festge
Eric Ihde

December 7

Martin Day

December 8

Rhonda Clancey
Kathryn Pirwitz

December 10

Lauren Anderson
Stephanie Hodek
Allison Miller

December 11

Jodi Micale
Louise Schmidli

December 12

Jim Henderson
Deborah Houle

December 14

Lori Sargent
Lisa Schroeder
Adam Shafer

December 16

Jill Hannemann
Katherine Kingree
Tabetha Miller

December 17

Liam Israel

December 18

Morgan Brahe
William Rambert

December 19

Nora Cvengros
Cliff Zeinert

December 20

Cedric Lewis
Joy Schultz

December 21

Bryan Jones
Ryan Lee

December 22

Gabryella Jackson

December 24

Marion Larson

December 25

Jeffrey Sherwood

December 26

Johnathan Plier

December 29

Ryan Cerney

December 31

Mitchell Bushman

ANNIVERSARIES

Ryan & Rachel Kaufman

December 1, 2012

Gary & Linda Parker

December 4, 1981

Ryan & Donell Wilson

December 31, 2019

Rev. Amy Engebose

Senior Pastor
pastor@stpaulneenah.org

Sandra Crase

Director of Mission & Ministry
scrase@stpaulneenah.org

Linda Tipler

Director of Christian Education
ltipler@stpaulneenah.org

Tamie O'Dell

Parish Administrator
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Todd Nerenhausen

Facilities Manager
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Eric Ihde

Handbell & Sanctuary Choir
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Linda Parker

Custodian

Jill Hagen

Organist

Council:

Peg Hoks, President
Jessica Hess, Vice President
Dave Wolff, Secretary
Diane Turke, Treasurer
Alicia Macias
Dave Fink
Alissa Jones
Jody Tews

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Worship Ministry:

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WORSHIP: In-Person & Online Sundays at 9:30 a.m.
EDUCATION TIME: In-Person Sundays at 10:30 a.m.
CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Mon—Fri 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



IT'S TIME TO ORDER CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS!

| | |
|--|----------------|
| 4" pot with approximately 3 - 5 flowers: | \$ 7.00 |
| 6" pot with approximately 4 - 8 flowers (red only): | \$14.00 |
| 7½" pot (2 plants) with approximately 10+ flowers: | \$27.00 |
| 8" pot (3 plants) with approximately 12+ flowers: | \$40.00 |

Please order by Monday, December 13, 2021.

In honor of: _____

In memory of: _____

Given by: _____

Color: White or Red (please circle preference)

If you will be taking this poinsettia home after the holidays, please check here ☐



Join us for our Living Nativity

Sunday, December 19

4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Come see the nativity story brought to life in our Living Nativity, held in the church parking lot. Hear the nativity story and watch it unfold before our eyes (at 4:30 & 5:00 p.m.), complete with singing carols of our Savior's birth. There will be hot cider and Christmas cookies, too!

We need YOU for our nativity! Please contact Pastor Amy or Tamie O'Dell in the office if you would like to participate.



Sunday Morning Advent Series “The Inn: Housing the Holy”

The pandemic has taken its toll. We're worn out. We're weary. We mourn those who have died. We grieve the loss of “normal life” as we once knew it. As we enter the Advent season, how can our church become a house where the Holy will be born anew – offering respite, sustenance, and care, opening the doors ever wider to those seeking shelter from the onslaught of life? No one church can do it all, but each can do something. Join us Sunday mornings in Advent at 9:30 a.m. either in-person or online as we hear from the biblical prophets who call us to care for our neighbors and “make room in the inn,” the lonely and frightened spaces within us are filled with the light of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

- November 28: Making Room
- December 5: A Place at the Table
- December 12: How Much is Enough?
- December 19: A Room with a View

Wednesday Evening Advent Series

Join us Wednesday evenings in Advent at 6:30 p.m. for an online worship time (Facebook and YouTube) that gives us the opportunity to stop the busy-ness of our lives to reflect upon receiving from God the gifts of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. Have an Advent wreath (included in the Advent Bags) or a candle to light as part of this time of worship and reflection.

- December 1: Making Room for Hope
- December 8: Making Room for Peace
- December 15: Making Room for Joy
- December 22: Making Room for Love

Join us as we make room in our hearts, our lives, and our church to house the Holy One whose birth we celebrate.

Did you know? If you read one chapter each day from the Gospel of Luke beginning on December 1, by Christmas you will have read the entire Gospel. Consider taking this on as a spiritual discipline during the Advent season.

Deck the Halls!

We will be decorating the sanctuary for the Advent/Christmas season on Saturday morning, December 4 beginning at 9:00 a.m. Everyone is welcome to come and help us “deck the halls.” No signup is necessary – come when you can and stay as long as you are able!

Advent Education Hour

Our Sunday morning 10:30 a.m. Education time during Advent will highlight one character in the Christmas Story. All Sunday School and Confirmation students will gather for this common lesson and learn from each other. Watch the weekly Luther Lines email blast and Sunday bulletin inserts for details. 10:30 Education time will not be gathering on Sunday, December 26 and January 2. Classes resume Sunday, January 9 with Generations In Faith Together.

**O Come
Let Us Adore Him!**

Community Christmas Dinner

The Community Christmas Dinner this year will be held on Saturday, December 11. Like last year, the meal will be to-go only for everyone's safety. Gift bags will be given out that day and each church involved was asked to provide some of the needed items. St. Paul Lutheran was asked to provide 65 full-sized bottles of shampoo for women and 65 full-sized bottles of shampoo for men, as well as 34 combs and 8 dozen cookies. As of this writing, we have collected all the items we asked for. Thank you, people of St. Paul, for loving our neighbors and seeing the eyes of God in everyone we pass by.



Living Nativity

Come and see the nativity story brought to life in our Living Nativity on Sunday, December 19, from 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. in the church parking lot. During that hour, we will hear the nativity story and watch it unfold before our eyes (at 4:30 & 5:00 p.m.), complete with singing carols of our Savior's birth.

We are still in need of children, adults, and families to participate in the Living Nativity. Please contact Pastor Amy or Tamie O'Dell in the office if you would like to participate.

We are also looking for donations of hot apple cider and Christmas cookies to serve during the Living Nativity. A sign-up sheet is located on the welcome desk by the church office or you can call the church office to sign up to bring cider or cookies.

Christmas Giving Tree

Our Christmas Giving Tree this year is providing Christmas love and joy for three families in need here in the Fox Valley. Please check the small tree in the narthex, call the church office or contact Sandra Crase (scrase@stpaulneenah.org or 920-851-6609) to select a gift to purchase or to donate money and we will shop for you.

Items should be unwrapped and brought to church no later than Monday, December 6. Thank you for helping us shine the light of Christ in the lives of these children and their families!

Christmas Eve @ St. Paul

**Come worship with us as we
celebrate the birth of Christ our Lord!**

Sunday, December 24

4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

**Please call the church office at 920.725.3961 to
reserve seating as we are continuing to practice
safe distancing. Thank you.**



Abundance!

“And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work.” 2 Corinthians 9:8

We want to express a huge thank you to all the generous folks of this congregation who donated money, food (a lot of food!) and their time for the recent November 13th serving of guests at Fox Valley Community Table. Because of your generosity, 73 of our neighbors were fed a delicious chicken casserole from Shellatties. They also took home bags of apples, cheese sticks, baby carrots, dinner rolls, instant oatmeal packets and cookies, some to eat with their lunch, but enough extra to help supplement their weekend meals. In this time of rising food insecurity, your overwhelming response to this ministry is surely a testimony of your thankfulness for the abundant blessings you have received from God!

During 2021, St. Paul hosted Fox Valley Community Table fivetimes, and fed over 340 of our neighbors. We have set our serving dates for 2022. They are: Tuesday January 18, Tuesday March 29, Saturday June 25, Tuesday August 30 and Tuesday November 15. Please mark your calendars and consider how you might help in this important ministry.

Again thanks, and may God continue to bless you!
Cindy Rieck and Jody Tews



Youth who are in 8th to 12th grade are strongly encouraged to participate in the ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, Minnesota, July 24-28, 2022! If this is you, please contact Pastor Amy Engebose.

Registration is still OPEN! Cost to you is \$50.00 to be part of this unique time spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship where young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives.

For more information about the Gathering, go to elca.org/YouthGathering. Have questions? Contact Pastor Amy Engebose at pastor@stpaulneenah.org.

Shoe Drive

Although our latest shoe drive to support our NYG participants has ended, the company had a delay in getting the truck here to pick up the shoes so we do not have a total amount yet from the shoe drive. We do know that we will bring in over \$3000, which will fully finance the NYG participants who are currently signed up to attend in 2022. Thank you to everyone who participated in this win-win fundraiser!



CROSSWAYS
CAMPING MINISTRIES

Summer staff applications became available November 24! Working at camp is so much more than just a job. It is an opportunity to live in a supportive, faith community of your peers, while making a life-long difference in the lives of campers of all ages. We are looking for young adults who are interested in walking with campers through questions of faith, life and adventure. If you know of someone 17 years of age or older that would be a good fit, please send them to crosswayscamps.org/employment. Camp makes an impact on all the lives it touches. Come and be part of the team!

Home Communion

If you are unable to attend worship in-person and would like to have someone bring communion to your home, please contact Sandra Crase (scrase@stpaulneenah.org or text 920-851-6609) or the church office. We would also love to hear from those of you who might be interested in the opportunity to take home communion to members of our church family.

Ask Away!



Do you have a question about theology, logistics, or just curious about something? You are welcome to submit questions using the link found on stpaulneenah.org or call the church office at 920-725-3961 and Ask Away!

Watch the *Perspective* for an answer from our “experts.” This is St. Paul’s version of the “Ann Landers” column.

DECEMBER 2021

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|--|--|---|--|
| 28 Advent 9:30 AM In-Person & Online Worship - "Making Room" 10:30 AM Faith Formation | 29 | 30 9:00 AM Quilting Angels 11:30 AM Community Table | 1 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Online Advent Wednesdays - "Making Room for Hope" | 2 | 3 10:00 AM Knit2gether | 4 9:00 AM Deck the Halls! |
| 5 ADVENT 2 9:30 AM In-Person & Online Worship - "A Place at the Table" 10:30 AM Faith Formation | 6 Christmas Giving Tree Deadline 1:30 PM Memory Care Respite | 7 9:00 AM Quilting Angels 11:30 AM Community Table 6:30 PM Executive Committee 7:30 PM Worship & Music Meeting | 8 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Online Advent Wednesdays - "Making Room for Peace" | 9 9:00 AM Online Bible Study | 10 10:00 AM Knit2gether | 11 11:30 AM Community Christmas Dinner |
| 12 ADVENT 3 9:30 AM In-Person & Online Worship - "How Much is Enough?" 10:30 AM Faith Formation | 13 Poinsettia Order Deadline 1:30 PM Memory Care Respite | 14 9:00 AM Quilting Angels 11:30 AM Community Table 6:30 PM Council | 15 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Online Advent Wednesdays - "Making Room for Joy" | 16 9:00 AM Online Bible Study | 17 10:00 AM Knit2gether | 18 11:30 AM Community Table |
| 19 ADVENT 4 9:30 AM In-Person & Online Worship - "A Room <u>With</u> a View" 10:30 AM Faith Formation 4:30 PM Living Nativity | 20 | 21 9:00 AM Quilting Angels 11:30 AM Community Table | 22 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Online Advent Wednesdays - "Making Room for Love" | 23 9:00 AM Online Bible Study | 24 4:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship 6:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship | 25 Christmas Day |
| 26 9:30 AM In-Person & Online Worship | 27 | 28 11:30 AM Community Table | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 11:30 AM Community Table |

St. Paul Lutheran Church – ELCA
200 North Commercial Street
Neenah, WI 54956

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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We remind everyone that while we are still in the midst of the COVID pandemic, we need to continue to be masked and follow social distancing practices while in the building. We have masks available at the door should you need one!

Christmas Giving Tree



Our Christmas Giving Tree this year is providing Christmas love and joy for three families in need here in the Fox Valley. Please check the small tree in the narthex, call the church office or contact Sandra Crase (scrase@stpaulneenah.org or 920-851-6609) to select a gift to purchase or to donate money and we will shop for you. Please bring your unwrapped gifts to the church by December 6. Thank you!

Joy to the World!

Helping Make Ends Meet

The Blessing Box on South Commercial is being stocked weekly by St. Paul volunteers. These items are kept available each week in this little pantry for anyone in need:

- Individual microwavable meals
- Travel-size personal hygiene items
- Healthy snacks

Please consider picking up some of these items as you make your December grocery run. Christmas is a time of feasting for most of us. Give thanks this year by supporting this important ministry. At some point in 2017 (the most recent year available), more than 40 million people in the United States were unsure where their next meal might come from. (USDA, 2018)

Worshipping @ St. Paul

We have three options available for you to join us for worship:

- In-person in our sanctuary at 9:30 a.m. (200 N. Commercial, Neenah, WI). Please sign up for worship by calling the church at 920.725.3961 or emailing Tamie at todell@stpaulneenah.org.
- Via facebook live or youtube. You can follow along by clicking on the bulletin link above.

If you are unable to attend worship in person and would like to have someone bring communion to your home, please contact Sandra Crase (email scrase@stpaulneenah.org or text 920-851-6609) or the church office. We also would love to hear from those of you who might be interested in the opportunity to take home Communion to members of our church family.