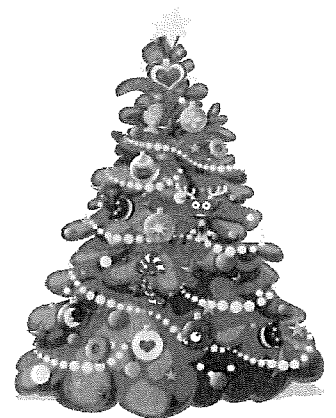


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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Lamplighter  
December 2018



**St. Paul Lutheran Church Council Meeting**  
**Wednesday, November 14, 2018 at 7:30 pm.**

**Present :** Pam Dunkelbeck, Melanie Vollmer, Les Hartwig, Tammy Anderson, Chad Schley, Bob Heilman, Julie Scott

**Absent :** Michelle Liebhard, Barb Krohn, Pastor Ally

**Opening Prayer**

**Approval of Minutes:** 1st: Melanie 2nd: Bob Heilman

**Treasurer/Office Manager Report:** ~ \$1,200 in checking, all bills are current. No operating debt currently.

**Committee Reports/Summaries**

**Evangelism and Worship:**

- Summary of activities happening in the church...there is a lot going on
- Coming up- Christmas services- 2 services Christmas Eve...2pm and 4:30pm. No service Christmas Day.
- Next meeting will be talking about Lenten services - Debating on having 2 services
- Pastor Ally will be giving ecumenical message...Nov 21 at St. Mary's

**Stewardship:**

- Meeting on Nov 28
- Food collected...\$18 and 10 lbs. of food

**Property and Management:**

- Front door is fixed
- Few projects in the works, but not much going on at the moment
- We will need a new microphone system in the near future

**Pastor's Report:**

- Made 5 homebound visits, along with other visits to 11 members and 2 non-members
- There have been 1 baptism and 2 funerals
- November Conference meeting will be held here on 11/20
- Polka Service is scheduled for 10/13 next year at 10am
- Honored veterans
- Bible study is continuing

**Approval of Agenda:** 1st: Bob Heilman 2nd: Chad Schley

**Old Business:**

**1. Nominating Committee**

- a. Come up with names by next meeting for open council spots

**New Business:**

**1. Year to Date Budget Report**

- a. Give to Tammy committee budgets a week before next council meeting

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully Submitted by:

Julie Scott

I'm one of those people who absolutely REFUSES to put up ANY Christmas decorations or listen to ANY Christmas music until after Thanksgiving (and if you happen to be one who does, I still love you ☺). Nowadays, we're so busy rushing to the next thing, whether that's to work, to practice, or to the next big holiday season... which is why you can now find school supplies next to Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's decorations in stores. But what happened to the waiting? What happened to the excitement and anticipation?

We don't know how to wait anymore -- we're plagued by the need for instant gratification. When we want something, we want it right now. Patience has become a characteristic that very few possess. Which is why I'm going to invite you to take a moment to just s...l...o...w... down. Take time to reflect upon the nature of this ADVENT (yeah, it's not Christmas until Dec. 25th) season and to consider what the birth of Jesus *actually* means -- it's implications for us today.

To the right is my favorite Christmas hymn (which I almost didn't put because it's technically a Christmas hymn; however, it was an Advent hymn in the green hymnal, so it still counts in my book). I share this hymn with you for a couple reasons:

- (1) This hymn is actually a chant, with a single line of melody. No flourishes, no harmony. The simplicity beckons us back to when it all began -- to a simpler time. We could use a little simple in our lives right about now.
- (2) The lyrics, written in the 4th century, invite us into the mystery of the incarnation, the Word made flesh (John 1:1). It was because of God's profound love that Jesus came into this world. He came to love, to teach, and to save this fallen, sinful creation, of which we are a part. How humbling is that?

Advent is such a beautiful, hopeful time of year filled with excitement and anticipation. May we wait and prepare, contemplate and pray as we await the coming of our God and King... evermore and evermore.

**Of the Father's Love Begotten**

Of the Father's love begotten,  
Ere the worlds began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega,  
He the source the ending he,  
Of the things that are, that have been,  
And that future years shall see,  
Evermore and evermore.

Oh, that birth forever blessed,  
When the virgin full of grace,  
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,  
Bore the Savior of our race,  
And the babe, the world's redeemer,  
First revealed his sacred face,  
Evermore and evermore.


This is he whom seers in old time  
Chanted of with one accord,  
Whom the voices of the prophets  
Promised in their faithful word;  
Now he shines the long-expected;  
Let creation praise its Lord  
Evermore and evermore.

Let the heights of heav'n adore him;  
Angel hosts, his praises sing;  
Pow'rs dominions, bow before him  
And extol our God and King;  
Let no tongue on earth be silent,  
Ev'ry voice in concert ring  
Evermore and evermore.

Christ, to thee, with God the Father,  
And, O Holy Ghost, to thee,  
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving  
And unwearied praises be;  
Honor, glory, and dominion,  
And eternal victory  
Evermore and evermore!  
Amen.



# December 2018

| Sunday   | Monday                                   | Tuesday   | Wednesday   | Thursday                            | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---|---|-------------------------------------|--------|----------|
|  |  |   |   |                                     |        | 1        |
| 9am Worship<br>10am Sunday School<br>6pm SPY Team                      |  |   |   |                                     |        |          |
| 2  | 3  | 4   | 5   | 6                                   | 7      | 8        |
| 9am Worship<br>10am Sunday School<br>6pm SPY Team                      |  | <b>6-7pm Bible Study</b>  | 6pm Confirmation<br>7:30 Property & Worship & Evangelism Mtg. | 11am Worship at Central Health Care |        |          |
| 9  | 10                                       | 11  | 12  | 13                                  | 14     | 15       |
| 9am Worship<br>10am Sunday School<br>6pm SPY Team                      | Office Closed<br>1pm Sewing Circle       |   | 9am ELCW Mtg<br>6pm Confirmation<br>7:30 Council Mtg          |                                     |        |          |
| 16   | 17                                       | 18  | 19  | 20                                  | 21     | 22       |
| 9am Worship<br>10am Sunday School<br>6pm SPY Team                      | Office Closed<br>1pm Sewing Circle       | <b>6-7pm Bible Study</b>  | 6pm Confirmation<br>7:30pm Youth & Ed                         | <b>Second Harvest</b>               |        |          |
| 23   | 24                                       | 25  | 26  | 27                                  | 28     | 29       |
| 9am Worship<br>10:15am Childrens Christmas Program<br>No Sunday School | Christmas Eve<br>Worship<br>2pm & 4:30pm | <br><b>Christmas Day</b> | No Confirmation   |                                     |        |          |
| 30   | 31                                       |   |   |                                     |        |          |
| 9am Worship<br>No Sunday School  | New Year's Eve                           |   |   |                                     |        |          |



## FAQ: What's the deal with the Advent Wreath?

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### *What is the Advent Wreath and how is it used in worship?*

As Christians, we use symbols to express visually the basic tenets of our faith and as reminders of the pilgrimage of our life in Christ. Symbols can have heightened meaning for us when associated with particular seasons of that journey. One such symbol is the Advent wreath.

The Advent wreath has its roots in the pre-Christian practices of northern Europe. People sought the return of the sun in the dark time of the year (at the winter solstice) by lighting candles and fires. As early as the middle Ages, Christians used fire and light to represent Christ's coming into the world. Using this same symbolism, the Advent wreath developed a few centuries ago in Germany as a sign of the waiting and hopeful expectation of the return in glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. The wreath, a circle, came to represent the eternal victory over death through Jesus Christ. The evergreens were a sign of the faithfulness of God to God's people, even in death, and the lighted candles were a reminder of the light of Christ brought into the world.

This symbolism can be just as strong for us today. As is the case with all symbols, they speak most loudly to remind us of God's promises of life when they are drawn directly out of our daily experience and environment.

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Traditionally, the four candles around the Advent wreath represent *hope, peace, joy, and love*. You can find 4 really AMAZING videos on these themes to use as a resource for learning or Advent devotional at: <https://thebibleproject.com/explore/the-advent-series/>

## Confirmation News

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We're well into our 2018-2019 confirmation year! On **December 5th** we'll have our second *Service Rotation Day*. On that night, some of our youth will be going to Horizon Place and Central Healthcare to spend time with the residents and spread some holiday cheer. We ask parents to please park in the parking lot (rather than lining up) so that our mentors/drivers can get the youth back to the building promptly. Thanks!

### Meal Schedule:

- Dec. 5th -- Korey Mach
- Dec. 12th -- Madeline Kempenich
- Dec. 19th -- 1st Year + (some) 3rd Year Youth
- Dec. 26th -- **NO CLASS**

### Acolyte Schedule:

- Dec. 2nd -- Savannah Squires & Jordyn Berg
- Dec. 9th -- Dante Juberian & Gavin Roemhildt
- Dec. 16th -- Ava Peterson & Reese Dougherty
- Dec. 24th (2:00) -- Jordyn Berg & Dante Juberian
- Dec. 24th (4:30) -- **LOOKING FOR ACOLYTES**
- Dec. 30th -- Brianna Nichols & Alex Schley