



St. Paul's EPISTLE

December 2016 edition

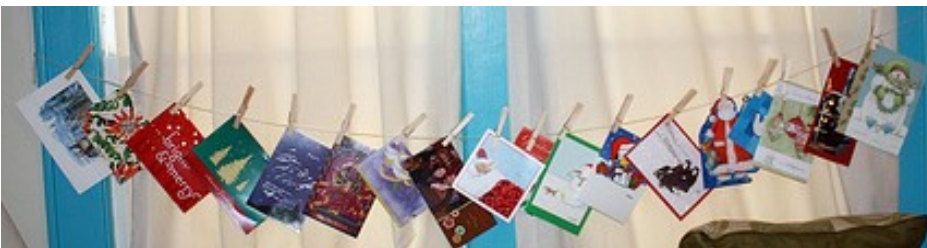
What's Your Best Christmas Greeting?

By Pastor Martin Baur

No doubt you have struggled a little bit as you write out your Christmas cards, letters, or emails. On the one hand you want to clearly communicate what Christmas is all about, but at the same time you know your mailing list doesn't include only those who share your same understanding of this season. There may also be the social pressure of using politically correct Christmas greeting. The plea is to be sensitive to everyone as you celebrate your holiday traditions according to your religious persuasions and do it with respect for the religious persuasion of others who choose to practice their own religion or practice no religion at all. Some have even added disclaimers like the one I ran across: "This greeting implies no promise by the wisher to actually implement any of the wishes for her/himself or others and no responsibility for any unintended emotional stress these greetings may bring to those not caught up in the holiday spirit."

Now while it is true that we really can only wish someone a Merry Christmas. We cannot make it happen, since it is only a wish. We can, however, point them to the Christ who made it happen. Because of that, maybe our greeting will sound a little more like a prayer. (Who has ever told you not to pray for them?) It could sound something like this. "My Christmas prayer is that the Savior born in Bethlehem will bring you Christian joy." Or "My prayer is that you find your joy in Jesus." Or start thinking about your greeting for next Christmas. No need to shy away from the "Christ" in Christmas. No need to add a disclaimer. Just make it a confession of what this celebration means to you and a heartfelt prayer for those you know.

Merry Christmas everyone. My prayer is that the birth of the Savior makes you more than merry, but brings you Christmas joy.



God's House.
Your Home.

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Sunday worship
at 8:00 & 10:30am

www.stpaulswr.org

Jesus Christ, Mary's Son and Savior, Came to Love and Save Us!

Will you come to Him and his Word and be loved and saved?



WEDNESDAY ADVENT WORSHIP SERVICES

Wednesdays, Nov. 30, Dec. 7 & Dec. 14

at 3:30 and 6:30 PM

Advent suppers served from 4:30-6:00 PM

Jesus loves us and says to us, "Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart and you will find rest for your souls."

- Matthew 11:28-29

The Advent Season of the Christian Church Year speaks to us about the "comings" of Jesus Christ as foretold in the Books of the Old Testament and as fulfilled in the life, death, resurrection, ascension and the return of Jesus to earth on Judgment Day.

A three-fold Advent or Coming of Jesus Christ is proclaimed to us in both the Books of the Old Testament and of the New Testament. As true God who became a true man, Jesus came to earth and earned mankind's forgiveness and salvation from damnation in hell. As true God and true man, Jesus comes to children and adults by means of His Word and His Sacraments of Holy Baptism and the Lord's Supper to give us faith in Him and the salvation He earned for us. On Judgment Day, this world's Last Day, as true God and true man, Jesus will come as He returns to this earth to judge all people and to take His believers to live forever with Him in heaven.

Our Wednesday Advent Worship Services will be centered in God's Word and a video presentation of Jesus' coming to earth as "Mary's Son and Savior." We will be blessed to know and believe that Jesus Christ is true God and true Man and is our Savior from sin, death and everlasting damnation in hell.

On Wednesday, Nov. 30, we will stress the wondrous fact that "Mary's Son and Savior is the Lamb of God who has taken away the sin of world."

On Wednesday, Dec. 7, we will stress the wondrous fact that "Mary's Son and Savior is the LORD of Love, Help, Comfort and Hope."

On Wednesday, Dec. 14, we will stress the wondrous fact that "Mary's Son and Savior is the LORD of Truth and Salvation."

Mary's Son and Savior came to love and save us and is coming on this world's Last Day to take His believers home to live forever with Him in heaven. Will we come and bring our family members and other precious people to hear and learn about "Mary's Son and Savior" at our Wednesday Advent Services?

Are You Ready?

That's what everyone asks as soon as the Thanksgiving dishes are cleared away. Are you ready for Christmas??? They are referring to shopping, and baking, but we are getting ready to celebrate *Christmas The Way God Intends* – beginning with our annual Advent by Candlelight on Sunday evening, December 4th. Advent by Candlelight is a special evening for women of St Paul's and their friends. It's an evening of music, readings and fellowship, held in our beautifully decorated Welcome Center. We will have 12 tables that seat 8 and you will need to reserve seats, so check your calendar, then ask a friend (they don't need to be a member) or just sign up alone and meet some new friends. We have many who come year after year, so we take that as a positive endorsement, but if you are new to St. Paul's or just haven't ever joined us, we would love to see your name on the sign-up sheet, and then your smiling face at one of the lovely tables. Mark your calendar for December 4th - doors will open at 5:30 and the program will begin at 6:00 p.m.



ADVENT BY
CANDLELIGHT
DEC. 4
AT 6:00PM

This is Christ the King!

How many questions have you asked and answered today? Questions like, is it supposed to rain? What's for supper? Or, where are my keys? Questions can be worthwhile, because they help us learn. As little children we questioned everything. And the more we questioned, the more we learned.

This year's school Christmas service is based on a question from the Christmas carol, "What Child Is This?" Throughout the service, we will ask the how, when, where, why, and what of Christmas. And, we will discover the story of God's love for us, freely given in the Bethlehem manger. Many questions will be asked in the recitations, hymns and songs. But the answers will all reflect the same comforting Christmas truth: "This, this is Christ the King, the Babe, the Son of Mary!"

Please join us for this special Christmas celebration on Saturday, Dec. 17 at 6:30 p.m.



Journey to Bethlehem at NLHS

Journey to Bethlehem is a unique way to experience the miracle of our Savior's birth first hand. Hear the prophecies, talk with the shepherds, make your way through busy Bethlehem, and ponder the birth of Jesus. This special living interactive nativity at Northland Lutheran High School will surely help you to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.

Bring the whole family on Saturday, Dec. 17. (No Pets please.) The whole experience takes under 45 minutes, and you can enjoy fellowship and refreshments afterwards. There is no cost for the event. A free will offering will be taken. Reserve your spot online at nlhs.org or by calling 715-359-3400.



Living Nativity

St. Paul's School News

Preschool News – by Mrs. Hannah Mueller

November is really flying by! We've been busy learning about our five senses, apples and how they grow, patterns, and about Thanksgiving. We've been learning about our letters A through H. We've also been busy making preparations for our Thanksgiving Feast which will be on Wednesday, November 23rd at 5:30pm in the school lunch room.

Reminder!: The Center is closed on Thursday and Friday, November 24 and 25 for Thanksgiving.



The preschool class in their Halloween costumes.

Kindergarten News – by Mrs. Trisha Engelbrecht

November. This is a huge time for reflection during our school year. Not only is our first quarter behind us complete with parent/teacher conferences, thanksgiving is also upon us; it's only natural to do some reflecting of God's goodness. We have been working really hard preparing God's lambs this year.

I personally am thankful for all the families who are interested in their child's education who work with me. I am also thrilled that they value Christian education. It is a joy to work with "my" children who clearly have the faith of children, so open and eager. I have the opportunity to hear their prayers, watch their love in action, and guide them on their path to heaven. I am glad our parents understand how much more important it is compared to mere math class or reading class which will only help them while here on this earth.

We have the opportunity of personally saying thank you on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. We will be hosting our annual Preschool and Kindergarten feast. The seventh and eighth graders will host and serve and Preschool through sixth grade will sing praises to their Lord during the service which follows. I hope you will all be able to hear their praises.

3rd - 4th Grade News – by Mr. Jon Engelbrecht

It has been an exciting month in the 3rd & 4th grade classroom. We have spent a lot of time in science class studying the wonderful creation of our bodies. We have studied all the different parts of the digestive system and how it works. We then took a look at the differences in the types of foods that we eat and how they affect our body. We are now examining the skeletal system and all its parts. It is truly amazing how God has created our bodies and how all the different parts have to be working together.

In this season of Thanksgiving, here are some of the things that an 8-10-year-old is thankful for: recess, friends, good education, bibles, families, church, lunch, teachers, chapel buddies, and math. But, most of all, we are all thankful that God sent His Son, Jesus, to earth to live in our place, die on the cross for our sins, and then rise again on the third day so that we may go to heaven someday. May God bless your Thanksgiving!

1st-2nd Grade News – by Mrs. Karen Obsuszt

It is hard to believe we are already half way through November already. We just finished our 1st quarter and we have had very successful parent/teacher conferences. It is amazing to see the growth the students have made already in one quarter.

After one quarter of practicing during our library day, the students are now ready to log themselves into the computer without assistance. This is important because 3 wrong attempts and they are temporarily locked out. However, they are now able to read books and take Accelerated Reader tests on these books during their free time in the classroom. They just needed to practice learning on how to type their username and password in successfully. With 24 students...I think we are now ready. I would like to thank Miss Nona Henke our librarian for volunteering her time every Thursday and Wendy Blum for also helping the kids in the library Thursday afternoons whenever she is available. It is always appreciated.

We are also busy learning about Citizenship in Social Studies. I encouraged my students to ask to go with their parents to vote. It was neat because I actually saw one of my students while I was voting. We had quite the discussion about the election and respect. God is the one that is always in control, and He is who we need to put our trust and faith in. Blessings on your month ahead.

5th-6th Grade News – by Mr. John Quint

The 5th and 6th grade's big project in November was the management of the Soles for Jesus shoe drive that just ended. We pitched in and regularly emptied the collection boxes, rubber banded the pairs together, and counted the pairs as they were bagged up in garbage bags. As of this writing, we have processed over 340 pairs of shoes! By the way, CASH IS STILL NEEDED TO DEFRAY SHIPPING COSTS. Please feel free to drop off a donation to the church office or to Mr. Quint directly. Mr. Quint will be transporting the shoes to Milwaukee Thanksgiving weekend, so shoes can still be donated. Please bring them to Room 108, a collection box is still in the hallway. Thank you for your generous support of this project!

7th-8th Grade News – by Mr. Randy Pahl

Over the past three years we have discussed, shall we say, the interesting weather that November has brought to our fair state. Two years ago we were discussing the bone-chilling arctic air that held us in its grip and called it Novem-burrrrr! However, with the mild fall conditions we have experienced these past two years we are definitely considering renaming the month NO-vem-BURR. Yet, we are certain that changes are on the way!

Speaking of which, as we change seasons in the sports arena, preparations are underway for the upcoming basketball season. Practices have already begun and soon we will be participating in actual games through our local YMCA and with our area Lutheran grade schools.

In the world of academia, we have just concluded our study of the first eleven chapters of Genesis. Creation, the fall into sin and God's plan of redemption highlighted this study. In algebra and math we have been changing "x's" and "y's" into real numbers. Government class has found us making changes to our Constitution through the amendment process, while in science we have changed the small objects in the sky to much larger ones through the use of the telescope! And, finally, we have had changes to our school day as we have begun working on our narrations for our Christmas Service which will take place on the 17th of December at 6:30 p.m.

Lastly, with Thanksgiving just around the corner, may the good Lord continue to bless you and your families as we remember the countless blessings which He has poured out upon each and every one of us. May we be especially reminded of the blessing of His Son, our Savior, whose birth we look forward to with eager anticipation!

God Blessed Me

The time has come to say "goodbye" to all the members of St. Paul's church and to the pastors and teachers who so faithfully teach and instruct us and our children. When you read this you will already know that I have reached the mansions in the sky and am with my Savior.

My parents were devout members of this congregation. When I was born, they had me baptized and thus I became a Child of God. All eleven of their children received their education at St. Paul's, both secular and spiritual. We were exposed to Christian training as well as to the subjects necessary for us to earn a living.

My husband, Edward, and I were both confirmed in the faith in May of 1938. God blessed us with four children, three girls and one boy. They also received their education at St. Paul's where they received detailed instruction in God's Word.

God has given me many opportunities to serve Him during my life on earth. He equipped me with a talent for writing and I was given the privilege to use it to glorify Him.

I thank God for the many blessings He has showered upon me and my family. I thank my church family for all the times they gave me consolation. I praise God for all of you and especially for the dedicated pastors and teachers who have touched my life. I thank God for keeping my faith burning brightly.

I will be with my Lord by the time you read this. I pray that each and every one of you will someday be with us in Paradise.

Be faithful even to the point of death and God will give you the crown of life. This is God's solemn promise.

Farewell and may God continue to bless you all.

Helen Kroening

Entered eternal life Nov. 3, 2016.

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WHAT DO YOU BUY THE GUY WHO HAS EVERYTHING, MADE EVERYTHING, AND HAS GIVEN US EVERYTHING?

Thank You

I would like to thank everyone from my church family for their prayers, cards and concerns while I was going through my heart problem. Also thanks to Pastor Mumm for his visits and prayers.

God's blessings to you all.

Rachel Schroeder

It's Crazy Out There!

Have you seen the news lately? The world attacks our Christian values from every direction on a daily basis. To counter these attacks, the Men of His Word conference uses God's Word to empower and equip men to carry out their God-given mission in their homes, churches, communities and the world with the theme, "Be Strong and Courageous."

Whether you attend for the keynote speaker (Pastor Mike Novotny from The Core in Appleton), the relevant, thought-provoking sessions (20 to choose from) or the worship experience with 600 other men (with Koiné, the worship band), God's Word will speak to you.

The annual conference will be held at the Oshkosh Best Western Premier Waterfront Convention Center on Saturday, February 11, 2017. Additional details and online registration are available at www.menofhisword.org.



Gift Idea:
Ladies, register your husband for the Men of the His Word conference. The fee is only \$40 when you register before Jan. 29.

Special Gifts and Memorials

Through November 13, 2016

Current Ministry

- In memory of Elaine Martin's son, Gary, given by Huntz & Marilyn Link

Mortgage

- In memory of Elaine Martin's son, Gary Martin, given by Family & friends
- In memory of Helen Kroening given by Barb Manz, Huntz & Marilyn Link, Jerry & Barb Blum, Tom & Barb Reitz, Pat Schade, Jim & Linda Hamm, Vernon & Betty Meyer, Cheri Weiss, Bob & Joan Hafermann Sr., Judy Evenson, Donna Stensberg, Terry & Helen McAuley, Carol Newsom, James Yogurtian, Elaine Martin, Tom & Gayle Bartelt, Bob & Katie Schalow

Missions

- In thankfulness of 92 yrs. of life given by Edna Haferman

Cheerful Givers

- In memory of Doris Deck given by Charles & Rebecca Tomek, Terry & Terrie Stake
- In memory of Helen Kroening given by Kathy Jackson, Anita Simenson

St. Paul's Student Assistance Fund

- In memory of Mildred Behnke given by Faith Haferman
- In memory of Doris Deck, Gary Martin, John Mettlach, Don Stroh, and Helen Kroening given by Edna Haferman

Decorating Committee

- In memory of Helen Kroening given by Larry & Veronica Klish



Mark your calendars:
Pancake Brunch
Sunday, January 8
After each service
Served by Lutheran
Pioneers.



St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church
311 14th Ave S
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495-2402

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Phone: 715-421-3634
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Upcoming Events

Advent by Candlelight
Sunday, Dec. 4 at 6:00 p.m.

School Christmas Service
Saturday, Dec. 17 at 6:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve Worship
Saturday, Dec. 24 at 6:30 p.m.

Christmas Morning Worship
Sunday, Dec. 25 at 9:30 a.m.

Midweek Advent Services



Wednesdays,
Nov. 30, Dec. 7 & Dec. 14
at 3:30 and 6:30 PM

Advent suppers served from 4:30-6:00 PM

Pastor Martin Baur · 715-421-1424 · Pastor James Mumm · 608-780-7106