

ST. PAUL'S EPISTLE - DECEMBER 2018



Church Council Minutes—November 1, 2018

Those present: Pastor Quast, Richard Christie, Dave Wright, George Aitchison, Ken Leerssen, Tony Lucek, Leanna Hasbargen, Leonard Morrison and Sally Batdorf

Chairman Richard Christie called the meeting to order. Opening devotion was by Pastor Quast on the topic of: "Beautiful Feet".

The Minutes and Treasurer's Reports were reviewed and approved.

Briefs: 1) The Elders are studying 1st Peter. 2) Tops All Roofing inspected the church roof and made necessary repairs. Major repair or replacement of the church roof will be due within two years. 3) Back door to the church has been repaired. 4) Pastor Quast thanked everyone for gifts, cards and kindness given to him in honor of Pastor Appreciation Day. 5) Pastor Quast and Dave Wright attended the Circuit Forum on October 14th. 6) Operation Christmas Child boxes will be delivered to the Christian Radio Station on November 13th. 7) Budget Committee will be meeting after church on December 2. 8) Richard Christie, Dave Wright and Pastor Quast will serve on the nominating committee. 9) We will be sponsoring an ad on the Christmas Christian Radio Station. Pastor Quast will record the ad. 10) We will be sponsoring Martin Hill with a monthly gift of \$100 while he is attending seminary. 11) Corrin's will be doing an annual inspection on the church's heating system.

Membership changes: 1) Death—Byron Johnson on October 11, 2018. 2) Baptism: Gavin Christie, son of Ryan and Cortney Christie, on October 7, 2018

The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by ~ Sally Batdorf, Secretary



December 5: 6 p.m. Soup Supper 7 p.m. Advent Worship at St. Paul's

December 12: 6 p.m. Soup Supper 7 p.m. Advent Worship at Church of The Lutheran Hour

December 16th: Sunday School Christmas Program during 10:45 worship.

December 19th: 6 p.m. Soup Supper 7 p.m. Advent Worship at St. Paul's

December 24th: 5 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

December 25th: 9 a.m. Christmas Day Worship Service

Those Serving Our Church—December 2018 and January 2019

December: Elders—Tony Lucek and Leonard Morrison Altar: Leanna Hasbargen and Mary Bacon

Greeters: December 2: Leonard and Stephanie Morrison 9th: Deb Larson 16th: Marc & Kathy Gorden 23rd: Harry and Sally Batdorf 30th: John and Michelle Hopkins

January: Altar—Kristen Wold and Catherine Crawford

Greeters: January 6th: Tony & Susan Lucek 13th: Ralph Christie 20th: Tim Anderson 27th: Ray & Erlene Gorder



Annual Ladies Christmas Party

Tuesday, December 11th 6 p.m.

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Please sign up on the bulletin board to indicate your dinner choice of Swedish meatballs or lemon chicken. A popover and garden salad are included.

Invite your friends to join in on this fun evening! A special offering will be taken for the seminary food banks.



27th Annual Christmas

Luncheon and Cookie Walk

Thursday, December 6, 2018

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Luncheon: \$6.00

Cookies: \$6.00/pound

December Birthdays

December 1: Tyler Anderson and Ben Bacon

2nd: Norm Vollrath

6th: Gavin Bacon

7th: Annette Vollrath & Sandy Plummer

8th: Dave Crawford

10th: Orville Larson

11th: Ellie Bacon

17th: Cora Hart

21st: Rachel Crawford and Roger Hasbargen

23rd: Bob Houska

26th: Sandra Johnson

31st: Lisa Toth



The Significance of Advent



From the LCMS Website: Frequently Asked Questions

QUESTION: Why does the church year begin at Advent, what is the history of Advent, and what is the history behind the Advent candles and wreath?

ANSWER: The word "advent" is from the Latin word for "coming," and as such, describes the "coming" of our Lord Jesus Christ into the flesh. Advent begins the church year because the church year begins where Jesus' earthly life began — in the Old Testament prophecies of his incarnation. After Advent comes Christmas, which is about his birth; then Epiphany, about his miracles and ministry; then Lent, about his Calvary-bound mission; then Easter, about his resurrection and the sending of the apostles; and then Ascension (40 days after Easter) and Pentecost, with the sending of the Holy Spirit.

The first half of the church year (approximately December through June) highlights the *life* of Christ. The second half (approximately June through November) highlights the *teachings* of Christ. The parables and miracles play a big part here. That's "the church year in a nutshell," and it should help reveal how Advent fits into "the big picture." Advent specifically focuses on Christ's "coming," but Christ's coming manifests itself among us in three ways — past, present, and future.

The readings which highlight Christ's coming in the past focus on the Old Testament prophecies of his incarnation at Bethlehem. The readings, which highlight Christ's coming in the future, focus on his "second coming" on the Last Day at the end of time. And the readings that highlight Christ's coming in the present focus on his ministry among us through Word and Sacrament today. The traditional use of Advent candles (sometimes held in a wreath) originated in eastern Germany even prior to the Reformation. As this tradition came down to us by the beginning of this century, it involved three purple candles and one pink candle. The purple candles matched the purple paraments on the altar (purple for the royalty of the coming King). The pink candle was the third candle to be lit (not the fourth) on Gaudete Sunday, the Third Sunday of Advent. "Gaudete" means "Rejoice!" in Latin, which is taken from Phil. 4:4. ("Rejoice! ... the Lord is near"). Hence a "pink" candle was used to signify "rejoicing." Some also included a white "Christ candle" in the middle to be lit during the 12 days of Christmas (Dec. 25 to Jan. 5).

Donations of poinsettias are always welcome during the holiday season. Please leave a note in the office if they are given in honor of a loved one or special occasion.



12 Christmas Presents for the 12 Days of Christmas

- * Give your parents or spouse the words, "I love you".
- * Give your children a full day of your time.
- * Give an ear to someone who needs a listener.
- * Give a hand to someone less strong.
- * Give an old friend an unexpected visit or letter.
- * Give a former neighbor a telephone call.
- * Give a kind word to a weary sales clerk.
- * Give a prayer for peace in the world.
- * Give more gifts you have made; fewer money has bought.
- * Give anonymously to someone in need.
- * Give yourself time to reflect on this holy season.
- * Give God thanks for sending His Son as the Redeemer of His world.





A Christmas Message from Pastor Quast

Dear friends in Christ, the beginning of December is upon us, and with it, the start of a new Church Year in the season of Advent. This adventide we will be examining one of the great Christmas carols of the 19th century, "What Child is This?" As we enter into the so-called "holiday season" we will be bombarded with messages from friends and family, businesses and organizations. We will be given opportunities to discuss our Christian faith with those around us at a time of the year when most are feeling nostalgic about the Christian faith, rather than hostile toward it. How can we best share our faith with those around us? By answering the question of the hymn, "What Child is This?"

You see, many people today do not know the real answer to that question. Certainly, there are those who claim that the baby born in the Bethlehem manger, named Jesus, grew to be a great man. A man who said and did wonderful things—a man who espoused love for neighbour and enemy alike. Who could have a problem with a nice guy like that? But is this the true picture of Jesus that the Scriptures give to us? What child is this?

The hymn answers that question about who this Child is, who was greeted by angels and shepherds alike, by boldly confessing, "This, this is Christ the King!" He is no mere mortal. He is no simple moral teacher, but rather is God in the flesh—the Christ—the Messiah—the Saviour of the world. He is the Son of God, as well as the son of Mary.

But why? Why would God come in such lowly and humble circumstances? Again, the hymn answers this beautifully for us. He came, the Word-made-flesh, to plead and intercede for us. To be the sacrifice for our sin that we so desperately need. He came to offer up His blood in our stead—to grant us forgiveness and life and salvation. "Nails, spear shall pierce Him through, the cross be borne for me, for you!" This Child born in a lowly manger came to suffer and die for the sins of the whole world—for your sins and mine. What a joyous message to share with all those around us.

What, then, ought to be our response to this Child? Do we simply worship Him in private? Do we rejoice in what He has done, but choose not to live our lives in keeping with His love for us? Do we reject His hard teachings, and instead choose to hold on only to those that fit with our ideas of who God is? Of course not! "So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own Him. The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone Him." Our response is to worship Him in spirit and in truth. Our response is to sacrifice a portion of all that He has given to us in order to make sure that this Gospel message may continue to be proclaimed in our communities, and around the world. Our response is to cling to His Word of salvation for our comfort, peace, and joy.

Therefore, I encourage each of you, beloved, to join us for our midweek Advent services, wherein we will take up this beloved hymn. We will learn each week about our Lord's loving service to us in this Child of Mary, born in a lowly manger. We will learn to grow in our faith, and to share this Good News with those whom we meet and love. There will be a book of daily devotions to further deepen our faith and enrich our worship of this Child. There will also be a simple soup supper provided at 6 pm prior to every service, wherein we will have the opportunity to enjoy some much needed fellowship with likeminded Christians. Please, join me in confessing this saving truth to everyone this blessed Christmas season, as we boldly answer the question, "What Child is This?" by saying, "He is Jesus—my Saviour and yours—born to live, suffer, and die for all people." Thanks be to God in Christ Jesus. Amen.