

St. Paul's Epistle

~ December 2024



Church Council Minutes—November 7, 2024

Those in attendance: Richard Christie, Leonard Morrison, Leanna Hasbargen, Neil Manninen, Tony Lucek and Sally Batdorf

Vice Chairman Richard Christie called the meeting to order and gave the opening prayer. The Minutes and Treasurer's Reports were reviewed and approved.

Briefs: 1) Leonard Morrison gave an update on the Joint Council meeting regarding the Pastoral Call. 2) Shaun Steele has completed his work on the outside of the church and will be back in the spring for stucco work. He will be working in the parsonage bathroom on a project if a Pastor will be moving in. 3) Funds have been received toward a new sound system and we are awaiting a quote on a new system from NLFX in Bemidji. 4) Budget requests need to be turned in to the office by November 25th. The Budget Committee will be meeting on December 8, one hour before church. 5) Richard Christie volunteered to be the Election committee and find others to help. Election will be held in Mid-December for 2025 Officers. 6) The annual inspection on the chairlift has been completed by Arrow Lift.

There were no membership changes. The meeting closed with prayer.

Submitted by~ Sally Batdorf, Secretary



32nd Annual Christmas Cookie Walk

Thursday, December 5

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Cookies \$8/lb.

Cookies can be brought to church during office hours, 8 a.m. to Noon the Tuesday and Wednesday before the Cookie Walk, or up to 9:30 a.m. on the day of the Cookie Walk!

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 call 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 the world.

Ladies Christmas Party

Christmas Party



All ladies of our church and Church of the Lutheran Hour are invited to our annual Party on Tuesday, December 10th at 5:30 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran.

We'll be having a potluck meal. If you have a Secret Sister, we'll be revealing them from the past year and picking new ones. An offering will be taken for the Seminary Food Banks. Please join us for a fun evening!

MSL (My Savior Lives) Northland is a weekly, half hour televised LCMS ministry, produced in Duluth, Minnesota. We bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to you, wherever you're at. Services are led by pastors from the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod from throughout the Arrowhead region of northeastern Minnesota and northwest Wisconsin. The service is broadcast on MY 9 on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. and 9:30 p.m. It's also available on YouTube. Decembers schedule is as follows:

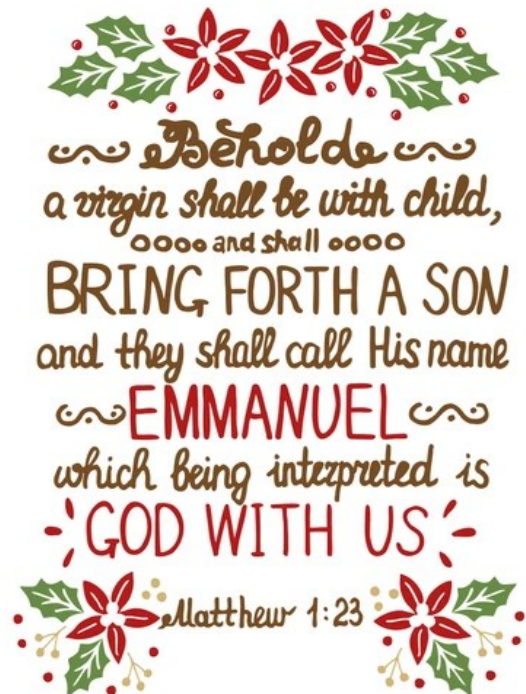
Dec. 1– Rev. Matthew Kohl

Dec. 8– Rev. Staff Thompson

Dec. 15– Rev. Mark Peske

Dec. 22– Don Stauty, Emeritus

Dec. 29– Rev. Patrick Lovejoy



December Birthdays

Happy birthday wishes are extended to these members!

1st: Tyler Anderson & Ben Bacon

31st: Lisa Martell

6th: Gavin Bacon

8th: Dave Crawford

11th: Ellie Bacon

21st: Rachel Crawford and Roger Hasbargen

26th: Sandy Larson



Luke 2:4-7 (NIV) *The Birth of Jesus 2* ⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Hungry, Tired and Homeless—By Steven Schave

It was a cold winter night. Joseph and Mary would have been tired and hungry from their long journey. And once they finally arrived, there was nowhere for them to stay. You know the story, the baby Jesus would be born in a stable and laid in a manger which was the animals' feeding trough. But what does it all mean? To the world around them, it didn't seem like much important was going on in that stable behind the inn. Just some simple folks having their first child... written off by the world as not being very valuable.



But as the angels announced, there was something magnificent happening that night. It may have looked like poverty to all those more important and wealthier people in the inn, but to the angels and shepherds there that night; it was the Son of God stepping down from Heaven to earth. In the darkness of a sinful planet came the Light of the world who beamed with hope. Into Bethlehem, the city of Bread, surrounded by a world starving for God's love, came the Bread of Life lying in a feeding trough. And there wrapped in torn up cloths laid the King of Kings who had the world as His footstool, and to whom the angels sang their praises day and night. But now He humbled himself to be made a child born in poverty.

And so began Christ's compassion for the poor and needy. He would one day grow up to feed the hungry, to heal those who were forced to beg for food, and he would forgive the poor in spirit who thought they could never be forgiven. But Jesus Christ didn't just have compassion for our suffering, He lived it and He conquered it. He would starve in the wilderness, be tempted by the devil, be imprisoned and tortured by soldiers, He would have his friends abandon Him, and have His last possessions gambled away at the foot of the cross – that He would die on, for us. That's right all of this poverty and suffering was for YOU! And so was His rising into glory.

Apart from God – we are all in the dark, we are all hungry, we are all homeless and alone. And when it comes to being saved by God, we are all beggars with nothing to offer. But God sent His Son to lavish us in the richness of His love and mercy. So my dear friends if you feel unwanted, unloved, unforgiven, lonely and written off by the world as unimportant, then let me just say this – Merry Christmas!

God has sent His Son because you are wanted, you are loved, and you are forgiven. You are so precious that God would send His one and only Son to be born, to live, and to die in poverty so that you can have eternal life in glory with Him. A life where there will never again be darkness or hunger or suffering or loneliness or broken heartedness or guilt or shame. Even if this world has no room in the inn for you, God will always have a place for you in His House forever! May the richness of God's grace be with you all as we remember the birth of the newborn babe, who gives to all who believe, the very inheritance of the Kingdom of God. Amen.

