

December
2013

Vol. 13, No. 12

THE EPISTLE

OF ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH, NEVADA, MO

St. Paul Lutheran
15156 E. Pony Hill Rd.
Nevada, MO 64772

417-667-7209 (O)

Stpaulnevadamo
@gmail.com

Worship 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.

Office Hours
Tuesday, Wednesday, &
Thursday 9:00—noon



Advent — a time of waiting and wondering

Join with our St. Paul family at mid-week Advent services:



Wednesday, December 4

Wednesday, December 11

Wednesday, December 18

6:15 Soup supper

7:15 Worship

Christmas — a time of peace and goodwill

Children's Christmas Program & Chili supper
December 15

Christmas Eve worship—7:15 p.m.
December 24
(offering to ELCA Disaster Relief)



*Thanks to all you
made our
Thanksgiving
dinner so special.*

We received thanks from:

Moss House for the meals made and delivered by Carol Janes and Patsy McCullough

Clarence and Sharon Kamla wrote us:

The thanksgiving dinner could not have been any nicer and better. The tables were so beautiful and the meal was the best. Want to give all who cooked, service, waited tables and cleaned up a huge thank you. We enjoyed the entertainment and the entertainment at our table topped it off! Thanks to the three "kids": Martin, Sophia, and Jim.

Sending **thanks** to those that helped decorate the church for Christmas

There will be a joint council meeting with the council from St. Matthew on Saturday, December 14 in order to review the surveys regarding **worship times**.

Everything has been sent in to the company producing the **church directories** and they should be arriving sometime in December. Thanks to Mitchelle Hall for her work on this project.

We are collecting gently used **coats** for children, women and men. Place them in the box in the foyer.

Remember our balloon launch?



For Rally Sunday on September 15, we launched balloons in the air with notes attached from St. Paul. Recently a farmer from Dale, Indiana emailed the church and let us know that he had found the tag in this field which is approximately 465 miles to the east of Nevada.

Soup cooks are needed: Please sign up to provide soup at one of our upcoming Advent services. A list is posted next to the bulletin board. Or, you can call the church office (667-7209) and

Fifteen **bags of groceries** were delivered to Community Outreach on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. The food was well received as people were standing in line waiting to receive items for the long weekend. The next delivery will be scheduled before Christmas.

On your next trip to the store, pick up an extra item or two to put in our red wagon. Anything your family would eat, will also be appreciated at Community Outreach.

SERVICE	December 1 Advent 1	December 4 Midweek Advent	December 8 Advent 2	December 11 Midweek Advent	December 15 Advent 3	December 18 Midweek Advent	December 22 Advent 4	December 24 Christmas Eve	December 29 Christmas 1
Bell Ringer	Nancy Kerbs	Russell Johnson	Margaret Bond	Wayne Reinert	Marvin Klotz	Greg Villagomez	Fred Seewoester	Greg Villagomez	Dave McCullough
Greeters	Nancy & Thomas Kerbs	Russell Johnson & Reanna Villagomez	Margaret & Darcy Bond	Wayne & Mary Reinert	Marvin & Linda Klotz	Greg & Reanna Villagomez	Fred & Anna Seewoester	Greg & Reanna Villagomez/ Susie Knuteson / Margaret Bond	Dave & Patsy McCullough
Ushers	Jack Lathrop / Ryan Quick	Anna Lee Bloesser / Caroline Phillips	Geoff Stewart / Deanna Ness	Dave & Patsy McCullough	Russell & Tammy Hogan	Bobbi Ogle / Linda Rogers	Nichole Anderson / Jeanne Craig	Dyke & Becky Kiel/ Nancy & Katherine Kerbs	Kerbs family
Acolyte	Devin McHugh	NONE	Mikayla Mohmann	NONE	Abby Norcross	NONE	Anna Fulton	NEEDED	NEEDED
Bible Bearer	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Thomas Kerbs	N/A
Cruifer	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Fred Seewoester	N/A
Assisting Minister	Bobbi Ogle	NONE	Sam DeLaney	NONE	Marvin Klotz	NONE	Dyke Kiel	NONE	Becky Kiel
Cantor	Geoff Stewart	NONE	Geoff Stewart	NONE	Marvin Klotz	NONE	Dyke Kiel	NONE	NONE
Reader	Connie Anderson	Grace Harold	Caroline Phillips	Patsy McCullough	Ellen Byergo	Reanna Villagomez	Anna Seewoester	Sam DeLaney	Patsy McCullough, Reanna Villagomez, Dyke Kiel, Becky Kiel, Nancy Kerbs & Katherine Kerbs, Linda Rogers
Children's Time	Kay Snedden	NONE	Sam DeLaney	NONE	Bridget Norcross	NONE	Pastor Chris	NONE	NONE
Bread Baker	Julie Sitz	NONE	Julie Sitz	NONE	Beth Stewart	NONE	Beth Stewart	Beth Stewart	Beth Stewart
Communion Set-up	Kathy Poe	NONE	Joyce Gundy	NONE	Susie Knuteson	NONE	Phyllis Jackson	Susie Knuteson	Caroline Phillips
Communion Assistants	Lola Quick / Julie Sitz	NONE	Joyce Gundy / Margaret Bond	NONE	Norma Cory / Nancy Kerbs	NONE	Becky Kiel / Ellen Byergo	Jeanne Craig / Margaret Bond / Reanna Villagomez	Caroline Phillips / Kathy Poe
Sound	Kathy Poe	Ronda Johnson	Becky Kiel	Gregg Poe	Deanna Ness	Greg Villagomez	Ronda Johnson	Greg Villagomez	Gregg Poe
Counter	Mitchelle Hall	Grace Harold	Sam DeLaney	Dyke Kiel	Russell Hogan	Beth Stewart	Fred Seewoester	Fred Seewoester	Dyke Kiel
LESSONS									
First Lesson	Isaiah 2:1-5	Psalms 37:1-9	Isaiah 11:1-10	Psalms 31:13-22	Isaiah 35:1-10	Psalms 96	Isaiah 7:10-16	Isaiah 9:2-7	Isaiah 63:1-7
Psalms	Psalms 122	--	Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19	--	Psalms 148:5-10	--	Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19	Psalms 96	Psalms 148
Second Lesson	Romans 13:11-14	James 5:7-11	Romans 15:4-13	Romans 8:18-25	James 5:7-10	1 John 3:1-13	Romans 1:1-7	Titus 2:11-14	Hebrews 2:10-18
Gospel	Matthew 24:36-44	Mark 13:24-37	Matthew 3:1-12	Luke 1:57-79	Matthew 11:2-11	Matthew 7:1-17	Matthew 1:18-25	Luke 2:1-14	Matthew 2:13-23

It's what God has done for you!

A means of God's grace: communion, Eucharist, body and blood, bread and wine, sacrament of the altar, holy meal, Lord's Supper, breaking of the bread. All are terms for what we do when we come up and receive a piece of bread and a sip of wine. The different words we use to name this act are just scratching the surface of differing opinions about what actually occurs when we partake of this meal. From the Catholic belief, bread and wine actually change to the body and blood; others think of communion as a symbolic remembrance. As Lutherans we believe that Christ is truly present in, with, and under the bread and wine. Some may say "what's the difference?" We all probably have different ways we think about this sacred meal. For me, I envision the dirtiest white board covered with my sin and in an instant, that board becomes pristine white.

As we come to encounter this sacrament, this meal, we believe that it is much like the sacrament of Holy Baptism. We in the Lutheran faith believe that it is not when we come to the waters, but it is purely what God does in the sacrament that counts. It does not matter if we come as infants, as teenagers, as adults; it only matters what God has done for us. In Baptism, we are being washed and made new! Water washed us once for a daily renewal and claims everyday that we are children of God. The same is true for the sacrament of Holy Communion; God's action through this meal is what matters. It is not how we come to the meal, but as a means of God's grace, this meal transforms us. We seek forgiveness as we eat and drink. It is Christ present and Christ coming to us as we are-- dirty, un-clean, unworthy. God forgives anyway because that is what God does!

The meaning of this small crumble of bread and small cup of wine is so great for us as God's people. It is like walking around in a desert with a small cup looking for a tiny sip of water to quench our thirst. And we do find that place. However, instead of only a drop of water, we find a fire hydrant like stream. Abundant grace and forgiveness is provided in a small package with overflowing love and mercy even though we are unworthy. We as God's people come to the table and receive the living Christ. We do so knowing that we can't fully understand what this meal means. But it is God's action that is important, and so we come hungry, and through this meal we leave filled with the love and grace of God through Jesus Christ.

This spring we will celebrate and welcome to the table some of our young people for their first time taking communion. If you are a parent and think your child is ready for first communion classes, please notify the office or let me know and we will let you know when classes will begin.

Peace,
Pastor Chris

Help Beautify our Sanctuary for Christmas!

You can help beautify our sanctuary this Advent season by purchasing a poinsettia. The cost is \$20 each and will be ordered from the Nevada High School Show Choir. If you wish, you may donate your plant in honor of or in memory of a loved one.

Forms will be in the Sunday bulletins or can be mailed to the church.

Name: _____

Number of poinsettias ordered: _____

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

Checks should be made out to
St. Paul Lutheran Church
(Please indicate "poinsettia" on the memo line)



December Birthdays

Shannon Bullard	December 1
Kyptin Hall	December 3
Kathy Abele	December 4
Ali DeLaney	December 4
Mollie Deines	December 4
Wayne Reinert	December 11
Danielle Stacy	December 11
Kevin Bedford	December 12
Karen Yoos	December 12
Andy Robards	December 13
Bradley Ogle	December 14
Cassie Tweten Eador	December 18
Jennifer Westphal	December 18
Ada Yokley	December 19
Thomas Creech	December 21
Emily Borzillo	December 22
Larry DeLaney	December 22
Tyler Phillips	December 23
Mary Reinert	December 28
Taylor Norcross Kimbrough	December 29

December Anniversaries

Don & Deanna Ness	December 3, 1983
Kenny & Bethany Jennings	December 8, 2012
Fred & Anna Seewoester	December 20, 1969
Larry & Nancy Kerbs	December 28

St. Paul Lutheran Church
15156 E. Pony Hill Rd.
Nevada, MO 64772

December Congregational Life Committee:

Gregg & Kathy Poe	667-2423
Jim & Vicki Liley	667-4605
Jeanne Craig	667-9456
Linda Rogers	448-9129
Phyllis Jackson	876-5063



Thanks to Reanna Villagomez and Sarah Lahrop for sharing their talents at our Thanksgiving dinner.

