



"God's Home Among Us"


John 1:1-16


2011 Advent & Christmas at St. Paul's United Methodist Church Worship and Special Events for Everyone!

This advent, open your life to light and find your freedom in life with Christ at St. Paul's.


 *Worship services are marked with this symbol.*


 *Events marked with this symbol are designed with children in mind.*

 *Events marked with this symbol are mission-related.*

 **November 19 & 20 Emergency Assistance Fund.** Especially at this time of year, we invite your generous offerings for this ministry of hope and encouragement to those who find themselves in need of short-term emergency assistance.





 **November 20, 5-8 pm Hanging of the Greens** in the Sanctuary, Chapel, Wesley Center, Parlor – *an older youth and adult project* led by the Worship Committee.

 **November 20, 5-7 pm Family Advent Night**
The retail stores have already beaten us to the Christmas-punch, but we're not going to rush! We are again joining the folks at Westminster Presbyterian and First Lutheran for an event that's sure to get you in the mood for... Advent! **We'll meet at First Lutheran**, start out with a yummy pizza dinner from Tomaso's, then enjoy Advent Wreath-making and other crafts to get us in an Advent-y mood! Dinner is a free-will donation. We hope you'll join us for this family-friendly event!





 **November 23, No TGIW—Church closes at 5 pm**
November 24-25 Building closed for holiday
Call 310-5109 for emergencies


 **November 26-27 Advent 1** Holy Communion
"In the Beginning was the Word" John 1:1;

 **United Methodist Student Day.** A special offering for scholarships and loan funds for United Methodist students attending United Methodist colleges.

 **November 27-January 8**
Children's Chapel Sabbatical

 Because of the number of special services, there will be no Children's Chapel from Nov. 27 until January 8. This allows families to worship together throughout Advent and the Christmas season.

 **November 27, 7 pm Tim Daugherty and Friends Jazz Holiday Concert.** Tim Daugherty and friends will present an evening of jazz holiday music. Come and enjoy music of the season.

 **December 2, 7:30 pm St. Paul's Carillonneurs Handbell Choir** will perform at The Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints' Nativity Festival at 4150 Blue Jay Drive NE. All are invited.



December 3, 2:00 pm Carillonneurs Handbell Choir and Tower Bells will perform at the CR Public Library Holiday Series at Westdale Mall.



December 3-4 Advent 2

"The Light Shines in the Darkness" John 1:5



Food Bank Special Offering. Bring boxed/canned goods or make a financial contribution for the Linn Community Food Bank. In addition to the regular weekend worship times, the 9:00 a.m. worship will feature the St. Paul's Sanctuary Choir, First Presbyterian's Chancel Choir and a chamber orchestra offering *Fantasia on Christmas Carols* by Ralph Vaughan Williams. The *Fantasia* incorporates traditional English carols with fragments of other well known carol tunes.



December 8, 7:00 p.m. Carillonneurs Handbell Choir will perform holiday music for residents, staff and guests at Deer Ridge in the Meth-Wick community.



December 10, 5:30 pm Blue Christmas

A special service in the Sanctuary designed to allow us to be real in our grief from any kind of loss in our life, while still recognizing that part of the reason for Jesus' coming was to bring hope and comfort to the sick, the lost, the broken and broken-hearted. Music, candles, Holy Communion and care.



December 10-11 Advent 3

"The True Light that Shines on all People" John 1:9



Christmas Dinner Special Offering. Supports our annual Christmas Day Dinner ministry.



December 17, 1-4 pm All-Church Christmas Caroling

St. Paul's members of all ages are invited to share holiday songs with and to extend their care to those who are homebound or in care centers. Meet at 1 pm in the choir room.



December 17-18 Advent 4

"We have all received grace upon grace." John 1:16



December 18, 10:30 am in the Sanctuary
Children's Christmas Program, "Listen to the Angels"

All children who have been participating in choirs on Wednesday nights or in Sunday School are invited to participate in the Children's Christmas Program. In this year's program, Gabriel and some older angels explain to the younger angels what the first Christmas was like. Sunday School will not be meeting that morning so that everyone can be there to support the children as they share their faith through word and song. The Children's Newsletter will have more information on when and where children should meet that morning. *Rehearsals are December 11, 10:20-11:20 in the Sanctuary, and December 14, 6:00-7:30 in the Sanctuary.*



December 24 Candle Light Christmas Eve Worship Services, Sanctuary

"The Word became flesh and made his home among us."

John 1:14a

- ★ 4:30 pm Family Service
- 7:00 pm Contemporary
- 9:00 pm Traditional with Choir
- 11:00 pm Traditional with Communion



Student/Youth Christmas Eve Recital

Students of all ages interested in sharing their musical gifts are encouraged to participate in a recital of holiday music prior to the 4:30 pm service on Christmas Eve. Please contact Carol Tralau (catralau@gmail.com) by December 12 to include your son or daughter on the program.



Christmas Eve Mission Offering. On this holy night, the Sending to Serve Committee, the pastors and lay leadership of St. Paul's invite and challenge us to participate in the special mission offering for Advent and Christmas for Apportionments – **our basic mission giving of the church.** The committee has refocused our Christmas Eve mission offering because Apportionment missions are central to all other mission giving and **provide the foundation for missions of other natures to happen.** We want to honor our commitment to the connectional missions with this generous offering.

December 25, 10:30 am Christmas Day Worship—Good News for All People!

—A Service of Scripture, Proclamation, and Carols in the Sanctuary, *Luke 2:1-20.* No Sunday School for children or youth; adult classes wishing to meet must inform the office before Wednesday, December 21 so the building will be open.

Christmas Dinner - Christmas Day is a day of sharing with family and friends, yet for some this is not possible. Free dinner is served at St. Paul's from 1:00-3:00 pm. Each family also will receive a poinsettia and bag of



groceries. Children will receive a special gift bag. If you know of anyone who would like to attend the Christmas Dinner or shut-ins that would like dinner delivered to their home, please have them contact United Way (739-4211 or 211) after December 4th to make reservations. **Please do not call the church office to make reservations.**

The Sponsor a Turkey and Sponsor a Piglet programs allow church members to purchase hams and turkeys to be served at the dinner. Sign-up for volunteers and food donations will start Sunday, November 27th. Volunteers are needed on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day for food preparation, meal delivery, and dining room assistance.

December 30—Youth Lock-in/\$10 Prom/White Elephant Gift Exchange. Come prepared for fun at 6:00 pm. Parents, please pick us up at 8:00 am on Saturday, December 31.

December 31 No worship service

January 1, 2012, New Year's Covenant Services – Second Sunday of Christmas,

Special Worship Times:

- 8:15 am Chapel Communion
- 9:00 am Traditional-Communion, Sanctuary
- 10:20 am Preschool – 4th Grade Sunday School Activities
- No Club 56, Confirmation, or Youth Sunday School
- Adult Sunday School for those that wish to meet
- 10:30 am Worship Café-Communion, Wesley Center

January 8, 2012 Epiphany Sunday –

The Visit of the Magi. Regular Sunday worship and Sunday school times.



Mission Opportunities for Hands and Hearts of Faith!



Kids' Mission Club Christmas Collection

The Kids' Mission Club, as part of TGIW activities, is again collecting items for gift bags to give out to children and youth who attend the Christmas dinner and to the children in FOCUS. We are asking for your help in gathering items. All items must fit in a medium gift bag and will hopefully be gender-neutral. **Please bring items to the church by December 4.** If you have any questions call Pastor Allison at 363-2058. Thank you for your support. *Suggested items:* Gloves, socks, toothbrush, toothpaste, small stuffed animals, developmental toys (stacking rings, blocks), crayons, coloring books, play-doh, books, card games, puzzles, gift cards to Target, Hy-Vee, or Wal-Mart.



Christmas Trees in Mission - Stop by our trees throughout St. Paul's!



Christmas Card Tree - Share the Peace of Christ with all of your St. Paul's family by bringing a signed Christmas card (with envelope) and placing it in the basket at the base of the Christmas card trees in the hallways. Cards will be taken from the tree and sent to members who are homebound or in a care center.



Mitten Tree - Mittens or gloves, hats, and scarves will be given to preschoolers in the FOCUS Program at St. Paul's and to children and youth who attend the Christmas Day Dinner. The "Mitten Tree" will be located in the Parlor from November 21-December 17.



Angel Tree - Take an angel and become one! This is an opportunity to share with those in need during Christmas time, through an Angel Tree in the Parlor. Donate gifts for children.