



St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church  
508 North Chicago Road  
Thornton, IL 60476

Address Service Requested



# The Glad Spirit

## St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church

December 2015 – January 2016

# Rejoice!

*For unto you is born  
this day in the city of  
David a Savior,  
which is Christ the  
Lord.*

*Luke 2:11*



# Advent Worship Schedule

## Mid-week Advent Services

December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 16<sup>th</sup>  
9:30 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.

## Sunday School Christmas Program

December 20<sup>th</sup>  
4:00 p.m.

## Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

December 24<sup>th</sup>  
6:00 p.m. & 11:00 p.m.

## Christmas Day Worship

December 25<sup>th</sup>  
9:45 a.m.



“Joy! Joy! Joy!” These words echo out to one and all. One of the familiar Christmas carols we hear each year. That is possibly what Christmas is, a time of joy, great joy in fact. There is no hiding it, Jesus is the reason for that joy. Without Jesus each of us is lost in sin and death. But thanks be to God, He has broken through all the barriers to bring us life and salvation. The Joy of Christmas is only the beginning. We have eternal joy that will be forever. The joy we have now is simply a

foretaste of what is to come. This year, this Advent, this Christmas be determined to share that joy by worshipping the Christ-child. You are welcome and invited to all our worship services and celebrations. Come, join us.

## The Christmas Story



## Christmas Program

December 20 at 4:00 p.m.



## Around the Manger

Look at any nativity scene. What do you see? No nativity would be complete without a stable, a manger, Mary, Joseph, shepherds, and Wiseman. Oh, of course there needs to be the Christ-child. Really, that makes a complete nativity scene. You might be thinking, “What about a cow, donkey, camel, and a lamb?” Usually we see animals in a Nativity scene.

The truth is, scripture does not say there were animals present when Jesus was born. It is only assumed there were animals. So we go ahead and place them in our nativity scene.

Even in the beloved carol, *Away In a Manger*, it is assumed that the “cattle are lowing.” We still however place the animals in our nativity scenes. What might the significance of the animals be in a nativity scene?

We will explore that significance this year in our Advent and Christmas worship. The cow, the donkey, the camel, and the lamb each have something to say about our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Come and see what it might be.

**Around the Manger – The Cow**

Exodus 32

Wednesday, December 2

**Around the Manger – The Donkey**

Numbers 22:21-38

Wednesday, December 9

**Around the Manger – The Camel**

Deuteronomy 14:7

Wednesday, December 16

**Around the Manger**

John 1:29

Christmas Eve/Christmas Day

December 24, 25



Dear Friends in Christ:

"Prepare to meet your God!"

Perhaps those words strike a note of fear within you. They should. Yes, throughout the Scriptures and throughout the Church Year that is a constant message. "Prepare to meet your God!"

As I write this article, it is an interesting time of the year, the liturgical year that is. Soon we will celebrate the Last Sunday of the Church Year. That Sunday bring the thoughts that everything will end. Yes, our life on earth will end. Judgment Day is coming when the world will end. In both of these instances, we will meet God. As the Scripture says, we will give an

account of our lives, of all things, great and small. Are we prepared?

Following the Last Sunday of the Church Year, we enter into the Advent Season. Throughout Advent we hear the call to prepare to meet the Lord. We meet Him in our celebrations of His birth; in His holy Word as we read and meditate upon it; in the Sacraments as we receive His grace, and of course when we leave this world for eternity.

The message is clear. "Prepare to meet your God!" Amos the Old Testament prophet spoke to people run amuck, hard-hearted in their sin. He pleaded with them to return to the Lord, warning them of what would eventually come their way. His words speak to all of us: **"Therefore thus I will do to you, O Israel; because I will do this to you, prepare to meet your God. . ."** (Amos 4:12) How do we ever prepare to meet God?

Look to Jesus. Believe with all your heart, that He is your God. Clearly understand that Jesus had to come into this world, be born of our human race to do what only He could do. No man, no angel, no saint, no other person, not even we ourselves could pay the ransom required for our souls' salvation. Only the Son of God in human form could overcome our enemies. Sin, Death, the grave, the devil, and hell itself all constantly work against us, seeking our demise and destruction. Only Jesus could make the sacrifice to conquer each of these.

Jesus is our only Savior. He alone can forgive us, redeem us, and bring us at last to the joys of a blessed eternity. Yes, through the liturgical year, several themes seem to come at us simultaneously. Yet there is but one message: "Prepare to meet your God.:"

This close of the Church Year; this Advent; this Christmas; meet your God, the Lord Jesus Christ. Meet Him in the joys of His forgiveness, peace, joy, and hope.

The Lord's richest blessings to you.

Pastor Wahl





# Sunday School Corner

Love, Joy, Peace and Hope

The Sunday School Christmas Program will be held on Sunday December 20 at 4 pm. Program practice will be held on Sunday mornings 8:30-9:00 then Sunday school 9:00-9:30 and on Wednesday evenings approx. 7:00-7:30pm after the pot luck dinner and before church. The Christmas Program is one of those memories that remain in our hearts and minds. The Sunday School Christmas Program is also a wonderful opportunity to share the love of Jesus with others. Encourage a neighbor, co-worker, classmate to celebrate the Joy of Christmas. Refreshments will be served after the program.

There will be no Sunday school December 27 or January 4, it will resume January 10 2016.

Holiday Happenings is right around the corner on December 5th St. Paul Sunday school will host a Cookie Decorating table Volunteers are always welcome. . So come out, enjoy a cookie, bring a friend and share the Christmas Spirit

Schedule:

- ❖ December 5 9am – 12:00 Holiday Happenings Cookie decorating
- ❖ December 20 4:00pm Christmas Program
- ❖ January 10 8:30-9:30 Sunday School Returns



*Searching SCRIPTURE*

## NOT THREE, NOT TWO, BUT ONE KING

by Jonathan C. Watt

Read Matthew 2.

It is a common picture this time of year: three kings, decked out in kingly robes, crowns and all, surrounding the baby Jesus in the manger to present their kingly gifts; three wise men on bent knee worshiping their Savior. But maybe this picture is not that accurate. Most modern translations use the word Magi to speak about these late visitors to Jesus' cradle.

What kind of people were these "Magi"? What kind of a reaction might the first readers of Matthew's Gospel have had to them? (Acts 13:6,8; Dan. 2:1-12)\_\_\_\_\_

Magi worked for kings and gave "magical" advice in exchange for money. We see something similar today in palm readers, psychics, and fortune-tellers. Most people view such people as hustlers, not as legitimate professionals. So these Magi were unusual, unexpected visitors to Jesus' bedside.

The "Magi" might not have been "wise" men either. What indications of that do you see in these verses? (Matt. 2:2, 12)\_\_\_\_\_

The Gospel writer highlights the ignorance of the Magi. For the most part, they do not seem to know what's what. They first go to the city where a "king" should have been born, only to be told he is not there, but elsewhere. If not for the warning in a dream, they would have returned to Herod with the information he needed to kill the child they found.

So why then does St. Matthew tell us about these visitors? What differences do you see between Herod's reaction and the Magi's reaction to Jesus? (Matt. 2:2-10; 16-18)\_\_\_\_\_

What kind of king was Herod? Why was he so angry? (Matt. 2:16-18)\_\_\_\_\_

King Herod was placed on the throne by the Roman emperor He held his power through the might of the Roman army. He was a cruel king, not wanting to share his power with anyone. He was willing to kill to protect his power.

What title does Matthew give to Joseph, Jesus' father? (Matt. 1:20)

Who else receives the same title? (Matt. 1:1; 12:23; 20:31)\_\_\_\_\_

What kind of person would be called “Son of David”? (2 Sam. 7:4-17; Is, 9:6-7)\_\_\_\_\_

Based on God’s promise to King David, his people were looking forward to a new king, better than David and different from other kings.

What kind of a king is described by the Old Testament prophets? (Micah 5:2-5; Is. 11:1-5’ 53; Zech. 9:9)\_\_\_\_\_

God’s faithful people longed to see a king who was more than an earthly king. He would be Shepherd, Teacher, and Savior from sin. How does Jesus fulfill these expectations? (John 21:15-19; 3:1-15; 12:12-19; Matt. 27:32-54)\_\_\_\_\_

What were his parents told Jesus would do? Why did Jesus come? (Luke 1:26-33; Matt. 1:18-21)\_\_\_\_\_

Jesus is the One True King. He is unlike any other king. He serves His people with His very life. Through His life, death, and resurrection, we have eternal life with Him in His kingdom.

How do we receive forgiveness? (Rom. 6:3-10; Matt. 28:19-20)\_\_\_\_\_

St. Paul describes King Jesus, His kingdom, and those in His kingdom. What is that Kingdom (and its people) like? (Eph. 2:1-10; Col. 1:13-23; Phil. 2:1-11; 1 Con 1:26-31)

Rev. Jonathan C. Watt is pastor of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Creston, Iowa.

Reprinted from *The Lutheran Witness* Vol. 128 No. 1



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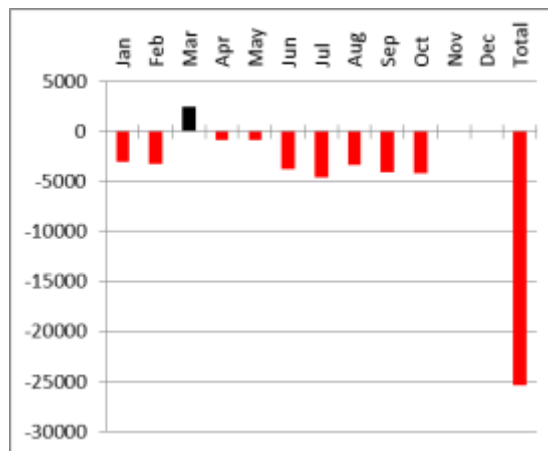
**Live streaming and Recorded Broadcasts** of our worship services are available on our website at [www.splcms.org](http://www.splcms.org)



Mrs. Jacquelyn Niemann, age 80 entered eternity on October 10. Pastor Wahl officiated at a service of Christian burial on October 13 from St. Paul's altar. We extend deepest sympathy to her husband Dick, her children Richard,, Christopher, and Lisa, and to her many relatives and friends. "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. (Revelation 2:10)



### CHURCH OPERATING EXPENSES



Bottom numbers, (negative), are shortfall  
Top numbers ,positive, are surplus

# St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church



## SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:45 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

September - May

## ADULT BIBLE CLASS

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Rev. Harold Wahl, Pastor  
508 N. Chicago Road  
Thornton, IL 60476  
Voice & Fax (708) 877-6564

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Church Office Hours  
9 to Noon Monday thru Friday.

Bulletin Deadline  
Thursday by 10 a.m.

Contact the church office to submit  
personal testimonials about what God  
has done for you. Or original art that is  
inspirational or humorous to the artist.

## CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

<b>Chairman</b>	Bill Sommer
<b>Vice Chairman</b>	David Bloom
<b>Recording Sec.</b>	Tracy Middleton
<b>Financial Sec.</b>	Robert Brandy
<b>Treasurer</b>	Chris Carr
<b>Elder</b>	Ed Hoeksema Steven Michels Henry Sella Jack Swan Brian Wiltjer Jerry Wiltjer
<b>Trustee</b>	Dean Bloom Earl Bloom Jerry Smith

### **Stewardship**

### **Evangelism**

**Social Ministry** Norma Allen  
Sandy Budde

### **S. S. Super.**

**Asnt. Super.** Debi Brandy

### **Adult Director**

### **Youth Director**

## Bible quiz



The first chapter of the gospel of Matthew begins with the genealogy of Jesus. In the first verse of Matthew two great Jewish heroes are mentioned as being ancestors of the Lord.

Who were the two?

- A. Adam and Cain
- B. Abraham and David
- C. Ezra and Nehemiah
- D. Moses and Aaron

The answer is in Matthew 1:1.

Answer: B

# DECEMBER 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> 7:30pm Elders Meeting	<b>2</b> 9:30am Advent Worship Service 10:30am Advent Breakfast 5:00pm Confirmation Class 6:30pm Advent Pot-luck 7:30pm Advent Worship Service	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 8:30am Bible Class 8:30am Sunday School 9:45am Worship Service	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 1:00pm LWML Meeting	<b>9</b> 9:30am Advent Worship Service 10:30am Advent Breakfast 5:00pm Confirmation Class 6:30pm Advent Pot-luck 7:30pm Advent Worship Service	<b>10</b> 7:00pm Book Club	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 9:00am Trustee Work Day
<b>13</b> 8:30am Bible Class 8:30am Sunday School 9:45am Worship Service	<b>14</b> 7:00pm Council Meeting	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 9:30am Advent Worship Service 10:30am Advent Breakfast 5:00pm Confirmation Class 6:30pm Advent Pot-luck 7:30pm Advent Worship Service	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 8:30am Bible Class 9:45am Worship Service 4:00pm Sunday School Christmas Program	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 6:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship 11:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship	<b>25</b> 9:45am Christmas Day Worship Service	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 8:30am Bible Class 9:45am Worship Service	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		

# JANUARY 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> 8:30am Bible Class 9:45am Worship Service	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 7:30pm Elders Meeting	<b>6</b> 6:00pm Confirmation Class	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 9:00am Trustee Work Day
<b>10</b> 8:30am Bible Class 8:30am Sunday School 9:45am Worship Service	<b>11</b> 7:00pm Council Meeting	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 6:00pm Confirmation Class	<b>14</b> 7:00pm Book Club	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
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<b>31</b> 8:30am Bible Class 8:30am Sunday School 9:45am Worship Service						