



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

Address Service Requested



The Glad Spirit **St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church** December 2016 - January 2017

Come Join St. Paul's Sunday School as they present:



Sunday Dec. 18, 2016

Come for church at 9:45am, stay for the Sunday School sponsored breakfast, and see the children as they teach you about the meaning behind some of our favorite Christmas decorations! 😊

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

Luke 2:11



mystery. “What is inside the gift?” “Will it fit?” “Will I like it?” “Will I have to exchange it?” Imagine getting the perfect gift. It will fit. You will like it. You can definitely use it. You won’t want to exchange it or even re-gift it. Our Lord is the giver of every good and perfect gift. During our Mid-week Advent Worship this year, we will unwrap some of God’s gifts. They are not named here. You will have to come to the services to find out what they are.

A free Gift

Wednesday, November 30

The Gift that Helps

Wednesday, December 7

The Gift Everyone Wants

Wednesday, December 14

God’s Most Perfect Gift

Christmas Eve/Christmas Day
December 24, 25

Advent Worship
Schedule

Mid-week Advent Services

November 30th

December 7th, and 14th

9:30 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.

Sunday School

Christmas Program

December 18th

Church 9:45am Followed by Sunday
School Sponsored Breakfast & Fellowship
Program should begin around 12pm



Unwrapping the
Gifts

Christmas is a time of gift-giving. We all love to receive gifts. Part of the joy of gifting is the

**Christmas Eve
Candlelight Worship**

December 24th
6:00 p.m. & 11:00 p.m.

Christmas Day Worship

December 25th



YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

It's hard to believe. The New Year is almost upon us. No, I'm not talking of the change when we flip the calendars to 2017. That New Year is definitely fast approaching. I am speaking about the New Year which begins in a little over a week, as I write these words.

It's the New Year of the Liturgical Calendar. Each year, we begin a new Liturgical Calendar on the fourth Sunday before Christmas. That Sunday is the First Sunday of Advent. This year, it falls on November 27. Just as the changing of the secular calendar encourages us to evaluate our personal life; so does the Liturgical Calendar.

If we each evaluate our personal faith life, we no doubt would find areas in which we need improvement. The Lord never intended that our faith would become static, never growing, never advancing. He intended that our faith would always grow stronger and deeper. I am sure that if any of us were to say that our faith is just fine as it is, we would be greatly deceiving ourselves. At the beginning of this New Liturgical Year, I

am encouraging each of us to make a New Year's Resolution. Here are some possibilities for you to consider.

More Faithful Church Attendance – Hebrews 10:25 says we ought not neglect the coming together to worship. Can you increase the number of Sundays you come to worship? Can you start coming to the various mid-week services?

Regular Bible Reading – Psalm 119:105 tells us that God's Word is a lamp to our feet. Try reading a chapter each day. Come to a Bible Class. Try memorizing a few familiar passages.

Develop the habit of Prayer – Philippians 4:6 encourages us to make all our requests be known to God by prayer and supplications. Why not set aside another five or ten minutes each day for a little more quiet time talking with The Lord.

Be of service to others – In Matthew 22:39, Jesus tells us that next to loving the Lord with all one's heart, soul, and mind, loving one's neighbor is the second greatest commandment. Are there acts of love and kindness you can be doing for others in the name of The Lord?

Tell others about the love of Jesus – When Jesus told His disciples, in Acts 1:8 that they were to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth, He meant that for us as well. Why not make a determination that you will tell a family member or friend about Jesus? Why not be willing to bring Jesus up in any conversation with anyone?

Help out around the Church – Remember Simeon and Anna, two folks we meet in Luke Chapter 2. They devoted huge amounts of time to doing things in the temple. Perhaps, you could spend a few hours doing some of the various tasks that need to be done around church. Perhaps you could take on a special activity you are interested in. There are many possibilities.

Increase your Support of the Church – In 2 Corinthians 9:7, St. Paul explains that The Lord loves a cheerful giver. Of course, when people hear that, they automatically think of money. Yes, The Lord wants us to cheerfully support His work with financial gifts and offerings. Yes, we could all most likely increase our support in that area. There is however, the support we give of our time, our interest, and most certainly our prayers for our church, people, and pastor.

How do these things sound? Can you make a few New Year's resolutions for the new Liturgical Year? God bless and strengthen you as you do to His honor and glory.

In Christ's Name and Service

Pastor Wahl



Sunday School Corner

Thank you to all who donated during our Food Drive. We hope everyone can join us for the annual Christmas program Dec. 18, 2016. We are trying something a little different this year. Sunday School will host a breakfast after church and the children's program will begin after the breakfast. Invite family, friends, and neighbors to come to church, stay for the breakfast, and to hear the meaning behind some of our favorite Christmas decorations.

Christmas Program Practice will take place during Sunday School on Sunday Dec. 4th & Sunday Dec. 11th.

There will be no Sunday School during the winter break, Dec. 25th or Jan. 1st. Sunday School will resume Jan. 8th. Everyone at Sunday School wishes you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! ☺



"NOTHING EXCITING EVER HAPPENS ON THIS JOB."



HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS AT ST. PAUL

Saturday, December 3

- 9-2 Decorate Cookies! Make Ornaments!
- 9-2 Christmas Crafts, Photography
Decorate your own wreath!
- 11:30-2 Soup, Sandwiches, Dessert
(still need a few people to work 1-hour shifts)
- 10 Bake Sale
(talk to Kathy Dejnowski about donating items!)
- Noon-2 Comfort Dogs
- 1 pm Wolcott Chorus Sing-Along

**Come out to support these
events**



CHRISTMAS MEMORIES

What is your favorite part of Christmas? Is it the Christmas tree and ornaments? What about the decorations, lights, cookies, parties and songs? Then again, let's not forget about the presents.

When I was growing up one of my favorite Christmas songs was it's the "Most Wonderful Time of the Year". Over the years one line has taken on a special meaning for me: ". . .there'll be . . .tales of the glories of Christmases long, long ago "

One of my favorite parts of Christmas is sitting with my family telling and retelling our Christmas memories, like. . .

- searching for hidden gifts;
- Mom and Dad getting wise to us, and wrapping presents as soon as they bought them;
- learning how to use steam to open a present without tearing the paper;
- how Mom could wrap presents without putting name tags on them;
- following a trail of clues that led to our first color TV one year and a ping-pong table another;
- Dad and our neighbor carrying over our pool table piece by piece, which they'd hidden in their garage all through December;
- Dad staying up all night on Christmas Eve to assemble presents.

Our children love hearing those stories and sharing our laughter

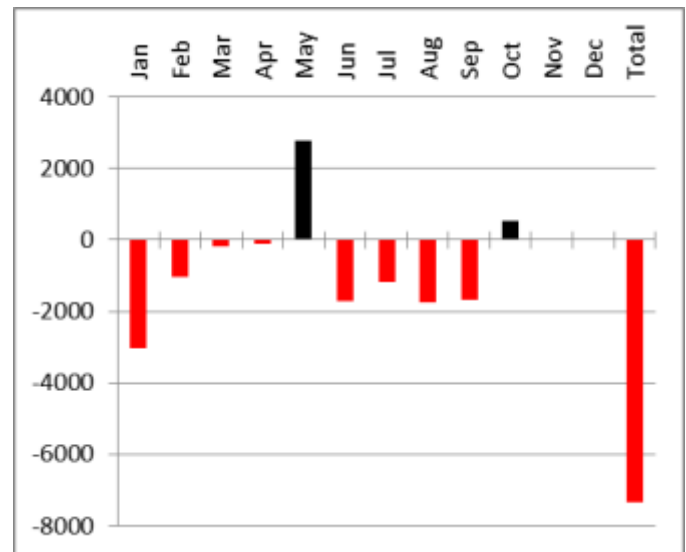
Have you ever asked an elderly relative, friend or neighbor to share their childhood memories of Christmas? As they search their memory notice the twinkle in their eyes. Note the delightful laughter mixed with a tear or two as they pull cherished treasures from the attic of their memory which have been gathering dust.

In this year's Christmas devotions we will do the same thing. But this time we will look at the very first Christmas many years ago.

You can download a version of *Christmas Memories* at www.lhm.org/advent. Advent series from LHM, *Christmas Memories* is also available as an e-mail subscription, as well as an audio resource. Starting November 27 there will be a discussion group on facebook about LHM's *Christmas Memories* Advent Devotions. Each day's devotion will be posted to the group. You can make a comment or a thought for discussion on one of the posts. See you there. To search on facebook the group is called Let's Discuss the Devotions. The actual address is <https://www.facebook.com/groups/st.paul.discuss/>



CHURCH OPERATING BUDGET



Bottom numbers, (negative), are shortfall
Top numbers, positive, are surplus
Deficits are withdrawn from savings

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

www.splcms.org
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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

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

Stewardship

Evangelism Debi Brandy
Social Ministry Norma Allen
Sandy Budde

S. S. Super. Kathy Dejonowski

Asnt. Super. Dana Krieger

Adult Director

Youth Director

December

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 6 Hunter Riordan | 18 Kristen Krencjarz |
| 13 Dana Tatgenhorst | 19 Margaret Loitz |
| 15 Tara Schultz | 21 Joshua Hurson |
| Judy Swazes | 23 Jeffrey Paris |
| 16 Jillian Krencjarz | Karen Young |
| Bill Sommer | 26 Dorothy Van Mynen |
| 17 Robert JaBaay | 30 Chris Baker |
| | 31 Shawn Conway |



Wish These Friends a
"Happy Birthday!"

January

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| 2 Tracy Middleton | 19 Cassandra Michels |
| Janice Schultz | Marcia Parker |
| 3 Steven Nowicki | 21 Ross Shadley |
| 4 Carrie Pearson | 22 Shirley Kipley |
| 6 Garrett Kolosh | 23 Micci Orth |
| 8 Donna Pfeifer | 25 Rich Fowler |
| 14 Diane Akers | Dominique Sella |
| 15 Alice JaBaay | 28 Jill Kipley |
| 18 Tom Gibson | 29 Lisa Durkin |
| Jennifer Lovett | Paulette Maurer |
| Henry Sella | |

An inescapable date

We celebrate Christ's birth by referring to it in the date placed on all our coins, civil records and vital documents. It is inscribed upon metal and written on parchment and engraved on the cornerstones of great buildings. It is on every newspaper, every check, every deed, and it is universally acknowledged at the beginning of a new life.

Every human transaction is related to the birth of Christ. It cannot be avoided or evaded. God has seen to it that this event is more widely advertised than anything on earth that is or that ever has been.
—Dr. Walter Wilson

DECEMBER 2016

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

JANUARY 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:45am Worship Service	2	3 7:30pm Elders Meeting	4 6:00pm Confirmation Class	5	6	7
8 8:30am Sunday School 8:30am Bible Class 9:45am Worship Service	9 7:00pm Council Meeting	10	11 6:00pm Confirmation Class	12 7:00pm Book Club	13	14 9:00am Trustee Work Day
15 8:30am Sunday School 8:30am Bible Class 9:45am Worship Service	16	17	18 6:00pm Confirmation Class	19	20	21
22 8:30am Sunday School 8:30am Bible Class 9:45am Worship Service 11:00am Voters Meeting	23	24	25 6:00pm Confirmation Class	26	27	28
29 8:30am Sunday School 8:30am Bible Class 9:45am Worship Service	30	31				