

Prayers of the Church

+St. Paul Lutheran Church
+The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, our Congregations and Sister Churches
+Rev. Matthew C. Harrison, Synod President
+Rev. Andrew Yeager, Pastor of St. Paul
+Rev. Daniel Brege, Pastor of St. Paul, President of the Indiana District
+President Donald Trump, the Legislature and Supreme Court of the United States
+Governor Eric Holcomb, the Legislature and Judiciary of Indiana
+The Sick: Faye Keuneke & Ralph Selking
+Those who Mourn:
+The Homebound and Infirm: Delores Rumble, Edna Mesing, Fred and Irene Bieberich, Malinda Bieberich
+Birthdays: Adam Hart, Don Haines, Mark Bulmahn, Mabelle Fueling Malissa Kean, Melissa Helmick, Tucker Hartzell, Linda Fruchte

Attendance

8am 93 Bible Class 53 10:15am 137
Advent 63

Offerings

Need Weekly: \$7,049.90 Received Last Week:
(+) or (-) Week (+) or (-) Year to Date: (\$65,364.72)

Saint Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church--Preble
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www.facebook.com/StPaulPreble

Pastor: Rev. Andrew T. Yeager | 260-226-0375 | andrewyeager@gmail.com

Pastor: Dr. Daniel J. Brege | 260-547-4256 | djbrege@centurylink.net

Director of Music: Mrs. Connie Garner

Seminary Students: Timothy Schmeisser, Brendan Harris

Acolytes for December: 8am Ben Enterline 10:15am Sam Albert

Greeters: 8am Jared, Courtney, Addison & Colton Butcher

10:15am Josh, Mandy, Jaxon & Grant Harkless

Weekly Schedule

Today 8am Page 203 Divine Service Setting IV
9:15-10am Adult Bible Class & Sunday School
10:15am pg. 219 Matins
11:30am Catechism- Public School
Monday: 7pm Christmas Eve Service-Children's Program
Tuesday: 9am Christmas Day Divine Service (Holy Communion)
Next Sunday: 8am pg. 219 Matins
9:15-10:00 am Sunday school and Bible Class
10:15am pg. 203 Divine Service
12 Noon – 7pm Fellowship Hall in use

NEWS AND NOTES, December 23, 2018

At St. Paul, Preble

- CHILDREN'S PROGRAM. Parents please have your children here by 6:30-6:45pm tomorrow night for the Christmas Eve Program.
- ACOLYTES. If you currently serve as an acolyte and can be present at the Christmas Eve Children's Program, **we are rehearsing today during Sunday School.** Please meet with Pr. Yeager in the sanctuary. Since we are rehearsing today, there is no need to be earlier than 6:45 tomorrow night. Thank you.
- ADAMS HERITAGE AND WOODCREST. For those involved with pushing wheelchairs and bringing our residents to the Divine Services at Woodcrest- I am now in the rotation also at Adams Heritage. I will visit both places next on Jan. 10th (Adams H- 11AM; Woodcrest 1:30PM) and would certainly appreciate your help if available. Please see me if you would like a schedule.
- FINAL REPORTS. The various church organizations should get their final reports to our church secretary by January 11th so the annual report can be completed before the Church Council meeting on January 28th.
- EIGHTH GRADERS/WREATH LIGHTING. I would like to commend our Preble 8th graders participating in the wreath lighting. They are: Sydney Keane, Leyna Macke, Nevaeh Martinez, Skyler Steiner, and Haleigh Wesley.
- ENDOWMENT FUND. Do you have an idea on how the St. Paul Endowment Fund can be used for the following items? 1. Missions: Local, regional and

world projects. 2. Youth: Support for youth of all ages. 3. Worship and Music: Support for the worship activities of our congregation. 4. Capital Projects: Major renovations and building of new facilities. All members are encouraged to consider potential uses for these funds. submit ideas and quotes for any of the items listed above for the 2019 year. In the recent years more than \$222,000 has been used to support the above items. Application forms and Bylaws can be found on the table in the rear of the church. Grant applications will be accepted thru January 6th. Any questions call Sue Buuck, Barry Melcher, Ethan Brege, Catherine Faurote or Mike Werling.

- THANK YOU. I would like to thank all for prayers, thoughts, visits and cards during my recent surgery. I would also like to thank the Cheer Committee for their visit. Jim Schueler.

At Wyneken Lutheran School

- As we celebrate the **50th anniversary of our Wyneken Lutheran School**, we recognize the graduates of our school. This week we remember the Wyneken graduating class of 1987. Mitchel Baumann, Lyle Berning, Beth Blomenberg, Kurt Braun, Nathan Bultemeier, Amy Bultemeyer, Von Bultemeyer, Todd Buuck, Linda Conrad, Sara Croucher, Daniel Gallmeyer, Emily Habel, Kimberlee Hoffman, Michelle Johnson, Todd Kreigh, Emily Lehrman, Kevin Macke, Jennifer Menter, Curtis Rekeweg, Cathy Scheiman, Stephanie Scheumann, Troy Scheumann, Laura Selking, Sandra Selking, Sarah Witte.
- **Wyneken Open House:** Sunday, January 27, 2019 from 12:00-3:00pm. This is an opportunity for any new church families and those with pre-school, pre-kindergarten, kindergarten aged children and any new families to visit our school, speak with school personnel, and learn more about the valuable education we offer. If you know of a family who would be interested in, please share this with them or have them contact the school at 260-639-6177.
- **January Events & Activities:** **January 3**, Classes will resume; **January 3**, School Spelling Bee@1:45pm; **January 18**, birthday lunches with the principal; **January 21**, No School, MLK day (planned e-Learning day); **January 25**, Grade 3 to the Shriners Circus; **January 25**, Pep Session, 2pm; **January 27**, School Open House @12-3pm; **January 27-Feb 1**, National Lutheran Schools Week; **February 1**, Family Game Night, 6:30pm; **February 1**, Mid-term of 3rd quarter.
- **“50th Anniversary Gala & Silent Auction”** We would appreciate your support and partnership with us as we hold our 50th Anniversary Gala & Silent Auction March 2. This special event helps reduce the number of smaller

fundraisers our school does while helping to benefit our students, teachers, and staff through the dollars raised. Portion of the proceeds from this event will be used to help update and improve the school’s playground. We are seeking donations for the silent auction as well as sponsorship. Your donations are greatly appreciated and are tax deductible. All donors will be featured in our event program! For any information call Kari Butcher 260-223-2277 / krose272@gmail.com or Erin Hull 260-580-2709/ erinhull@outlook.com

- Next Week Readings: Exodus 13:11-15, Colossians 3:12-17, Luke 2:22-40

Sermon – The Visitation – Luke 1:39-45

Today is the Fourth Sunday of Advent. With each new candle lit on the Advent wreath, we are inching closer and closer to Bethlehem. The last two weeks, we followed John the Baptist in the wilderness, preparing the way of Jesus. Today, Jesus is finally here, albeit as an embryo in the womb of the Virgin Mary.

Today the Holy Gospel gives us the story of the Visitation. Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth. Both are pregnant. Elizabeth, with John the Baptist. And Mary, with Jesus the Son of God. In these two figures, Mary and Elizabeth, we see the Old and New Testaments pictured, the old Israel and the new Israel, the Church.

Mary is a picture of the Church in three ways: she bears Jesus, she believes God's Word concerning Jesus, and she is blessed in Jesus. Mary is an icon of the Church in that she is **bearing, believing, and blessed.**

First, bearing. What child is this? The Son of God from all eternity. In the Old Testament, God took up residence above the Ark of the Covenant. For nine months, Mary is the new Ark, for God has taken up residence in her. Christ is also with his Church by word, wafer, water, and wine. The Church, like Mary, bears Christ's Word, his body and his blood, for our forgiveness and life.

Second, believing. Elizabeth says, "Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord." Gabriel spoke and by God's grace, Mary believed the Word, and conceived in her womb the Son of God through faith. When we hear the Word through our ears, we receive him who was made flesh for us. By faith, we are made righteous, holy, and justified through the blood of Jesus, which cleanses us of all sin.

Third, blessing. Elizabeth exclaims, "Blessed are you among women! Blessed is the fruit of your womb!" Truly, Mary is blessed. But not because of anything she did. Mary is blessed because of what God has done to her. "The Mighty One has done great things to me," she will sing in her Magnificat song. That is the reason all

generations will call her blessed- what God has done. It's a reminder that God's favor and blessing comes only by grace, the unearned and undeserved favor and kindness of God, which is ours in Christ our Redeemer.