

Exemplar



FROM THE PASTOR:

The angel proclaims:

Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

(Luke 2: 10-11)

Let us rejoice, sisters and brothers, with grateful hearts giving thanks to the One who loves us beyond our imagining. I lift for your reflection in this season of anticipation a poem that positively overflows with the same joy as the words of God's messenger above. This poem gives witness to our common proclamation that, *the Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*

Christmas Carol

Ring out, ye bells!
All Nature swells
With gladness at the wondrous story,—
The world was lorn,
But Christ is born
To change our sadness into glory.
Sing, earthlings, sing!
To-night a King
Hath come from heaven's high throne to bless us.
The outstretched hand
O'er all the land
Is raised in pity to caress us.
Come at his call;
Be joyful all;
Away with mourning and with sadness!
The heavenly choir
With holy fire

Their voices raise in songs of gladness.
The darkness breaks
And Dawn awakes,
Her cheeks suffused with youthful blushes.
The rocks and stones
In holy tones
Are singing sweeter than the thrushes.
Then why should we
In silence be,
When Nature lends her voice to praises;
When heaven and earth
Proclaim the truth
Of Him for whom that lone star blazes?
No, be not still,
But with a will
Strike all your harps and set them ringing;
On hill and heath
Let every breath
Throw all its power into singing!

Paul Laurence Dunbar, (1913). *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar*. New York: Dodd, Mead, and Company. Public domain.

May the coming weeks, as we all run to and fro, also have times of stillness and peace. May we take time to sit with our God in the silence. May your heart find a new old song as anticipation turns to celebration, for as the Prophet Isaiah tells us, *For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (9:6)*

*A blessed Advent and a Merry Christmas to all!
Pr. Creighton*

St. Paul's Crossroads, Church Council Minutes
November 5, 6:30 PM

Present: Pastor Creighton Leptak, President: Ginny Lows, Vice President: Susan Narwold, Secretary: Heather Barker, Les Kessens, Ethel Ollier, Carol Siebert, Michelle Wehr and guest Becky Bohman

Absent: Gena Mack

Location: Fellowship Room, St. Paul's

Minutes of October 2018 Council Meeting: Motion made by Ethel Ollier, Seconded by Susan Narwold and Carried to accept the minutes.

Devotions: Pastor Creighton Leptak

Correspondence:

- Thank you letter from Safe Passage.
- Thank you also from Food Pantry.

Financial Reports: Reviewed the Becky Bohman Reports and Budget

Committee and Board Reports: Committee reports are presented by Council liaisons.

Upreach: Ginny Lows

No report at this time.

Inreach: Carol Siebert

- Fall Luncheon Nov 10
- Hanging of the Greens Dec 2
- Christmas Caroling Dec 9

Outreach: Michelle Wehr

- Food Panty would like our church to donate canned fruit and vegetables for Nov. and Dec. If possible, 300 cans each.
 - So far we have collected 99 cans of vegetables and 50 cans of fruit.

Endowment: Les Kessens

- The Endowment Committee met on October 30. They prepared a report and presented to council.

Education: Heather Barker

- We had a Sunday School meeting in October and discussed the upcoming Christmas Program.
- November 21 – No Confirmation (Thanksgiving Break)
- Sunday School Christmas Program will be Dec 16 during Church.
- No Sunday School Dec 23rd and 30th because of Christmas and New Years Break
 - Adult Sunday school will still happen on the 23rd.

DLYO- Gena Mack

No report at this time.

Property: Susan Narwold

- Quote for painting steeple. Plans to do this in the spring.

Mutual Ministry: Pastor Creighton Leptak

No report at this time.

Pastor's report

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith... (Hebrews 12:1-2a)

As I sit in an attempt to capture the comings and goings of ministry for the month of October, my mind, eyes, and heart are captured by the glorious kaleidoscopic vision of autumn created by our gracious God. Each year as summer passes, often unwilling to go quietly into memory, fall sneaks up from behind us at the farthest edge of our vision until that moment when our eyes see the world around changed, and yet so very old and familiar. It is this yearly cycle when the blazing sun gives way to frost-kissed mornings, that provides us with a unique opportunity to pause and stand, if only briefly, in silent communion with our Lord as shadows lengthen and fall encircles us. In the rustling of the leaves, we feel the movement of the Spirit pushing and pulling us into places and relationships we can scarcely comprehend. In each drop of rain that falls upon our cheek, a living memory of a loved one leaps to our mind as our Lord whispers in our ear the calm assurance that we, like they, are beloved. The splendor of this season is a time when the church remembers. Remembers those who have gone before us and now stand in the glorious presence of the Lamb in numbers greater than the leaves that cover every surface in this season, greater than the stars in the heavens above or grains of sands in the sea below. It is also a time when we remember the struggles and challenges faced by the reformers over five hundred years ago. A time to remember that we servants, followers of Jesus, who will transform death and darkness into the blazing light of eternal glory. As the author of the book of Hebrews tells us, *"we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,"* the beloved of God who like us live and struggle knowing love and loss persevering in their race and encouraging us in ours.

October began with a wonderful gathering recalling the ministry of St. Francis of Assisi and celebrating God's good creation with a blessing of the animals service. As those who welcome creatures of all stripes to share our lives can attest, the joy and companionship of these relationships often surpass our ability to explain or comprehend its true depth. In our adult Sunday class, we have been exploring Paul's letter to the Galatians, as we marvel at the movement of the Holy Spirit connected our lives and experiences with those of our ancient sisters and brothers. Our twelve confirmands have been exploring the Ten Commandments and the fundamentals of how our God calls us into community and caring relationship with our neighbor. I was also afforded the opportunity to attend a conference on how to equip our community to be present with those who are grieving. Encouraged by what I learned at this conference we will host a *Remembrance Gathering Service* the evening of the first Sunday of Advent for those who struggle with grief during this particularly difficult season. I also had the opportunity to attend the Professional Leaders Gathering at Clifty Falls, which opened my heart and mind to consider how both as an individual and as a community we may consider a 'reset' allowing God to center our life, mission, and ministry. I was also pleased to be joined by Ginny for the Discovering Hope Conference hosted by St. Thomas and Trinity. Once again, an eye and heart opening gathering with practical tools for engaging with what the Spirit is forming, reforming, and transforming in our community. As full as October seems in retrospect, the month still held opportunities for renewal, and moments of calm reflection in the presence of our Lord. May each of you find such moments in your busy days as the glory of this autumn season reminds us to give thanks to our merciful and gracious Lord.

Pr. Creighton

Old Business:

1. Discussed remodeling of the basement kitchen. Looked over Kitchen Renovation Project Pricing report. Motion was made by Les Kessens, Seconded by Ginny Lows and Carried to accept the proposal to present at the Semi-Annual meeting.
2. Gary Westerfeld, Ginny Lows, Carol Siebert and Pastor Creighton met with a representative of Church Mutual and discussed the church insurance package.
3. We discussed the need to have the roofs looked at because of the hail and wind that has moved through the area recently. We have not noticed any leaks anywhere.
4. Semi Annual Meeting Nov. 18

New Business:

1. Reviewed the bid for Organist/Pianist and it was accepted. Motion was made by Ethel Ollier, Seconded by Carol Siebert and Carried to accept the bid.

2. Reviewed the bid from Schutte Lawn Care for the church and cemetery. Pastor is going to talk to them about the possibility of mowing later in the week so it looks nicer for church on Sundays. Motion was made by Carol Siebert, Seconded by Susan Narwold and Carried to accept the bid.
3. Council discussed increasing the salary for the pastor since he has been here over one year. We agreed to increase the salary which is reflected in the new budget that will be presented at the Semi-Annual meeting.
4. Michelle Wehr is filling the council vacancy until May created by Tom Meyer resigning.
5. Mary Lou Krieger is retiring at the end of the year.
 - a. We will be looking for another secretary. More details will be in the upcoming bulletins.

Dates to note-

- Dec 2 - Hanging of the Greens and also Blue Christmas Service
- Dec 9 - Christmas Caroling
- Dec 16 - Sunday School Christmas Program will be during Church.
- Dec 5, 12, 19 – There will be an Advent Service at 6:30
- Dec 23, 30 - No Sunday School because of Christmas and New Years Break
- Dec 26 through Jan 5 – Pastor will be on Vacation
- Jan 11-13 – Youth Quake - 6 kids are planning on attending.

Close Meeting: Motion made by Carol Siebert, Seconded by Susan Narwold and Carried.

Lord's Prayer

**If you have a topic you would like discussed in Council, please contact Ginny Lows to be added to the agenda. Also, please let Council know if you plan on taking on a project, fundraiser, etc. We are in the process of creating a policy for everyone to follow to help support all ministries.

The next regular Council Meeting will be on **Dec. 3** at 6:30 at Izzy's.



The Food Pantry is once again collecting special items for the holiday season. During October and November, they invariably see a significant increase in usage there. Each household is offered extras during the holiday months and it all goes very quickly. Our church's help in providing the extra food needed is so much appreciated. **This year we have been asked to donate 300 canned fruits and/or vegetables** during the months of October and November.

The holidays can be a very stressful and difficult time for those in need. The little extras they receive make a world of difference to the clients and their children.

Thank you so much for your generosity!



- 19 Bob and Amanda Thomas
- 21 Jack and Pixie Smith
- 28 Doug and Becky Bohman



- 4 Kyle Cobler
- 10 Noah Gausman
- Rose Westerfeld
- 12 Trygve Henrikson
- 13 Zach Westerfeld
- 14 Kim Linkel
- Melissa Rollins
- 15 Nick Gunter
- 16 Abby Siebert
- 17 Derek Wilson
- 18 John Kestler
- Jack Smith
- 19 Tim Salvitti
- Isaac Salvitti
- 22 Cleo Narwold
- 23 Brad Westerfeld
- 24 David Siebert
- Holly Cobler
- 25 Tina Siebert
- 27 Cody Franke
- Jennifer Meyer
- 28 Steve Westerfeld
- 30 Makyla Ludwig-Lay
- 31 Karter Leslie
- Jacob Mehlon

CALENDAR

SUNDAYS: (unless otherwise noted)

- Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
- Worship 10:00 a.m.

TUESDAYS:

- SEIC Clergy meet 10:00 a.m.

- 2 Hanging of the Greens 11:15 a.m.
- 3 Church Council 6:30 p.m.
- Busy Bees 4-H Club 7:00 p.m.
- 5 Confirmation 2nd year 6:30 p.m.
- Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.
- 6 BAMA 1:30 p.m.
- 9 Christmas Caroling 1:00 p.m.
- 10 Leisure Ladies 1:00 p.m.
- 12 Margarita Moms 6:15 p.m.
- Confirmation 1st year 6:30 p.m.
- Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.
- 16 Christmas Program 10:00 a.m.
- 19 Confirmation 2nd year 6:30 p.m.
- Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.
- 23 NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
- 24 Christmas Eve Service 7:30 p.m.
- 25 Merry Christmas
- 26 Pastor Creighton begins vacation.
- 30 Pastor Creighton on vacation
- NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Pastor Creighton on vacation from December 26 - January 5.



Worship Leaders for December and January

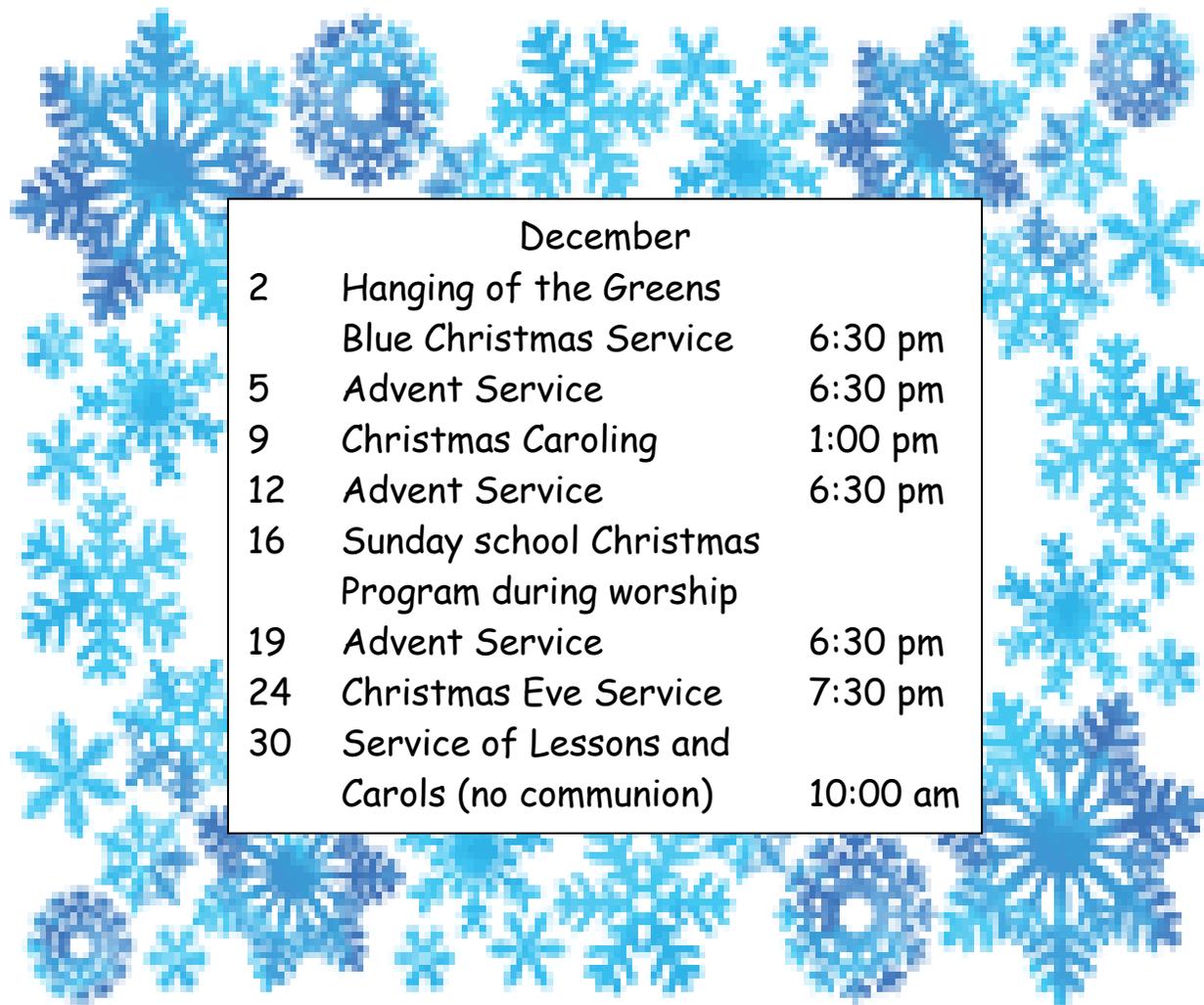
Date	Assisting Minister	Reader	Communion Ass't
December			
2	Mary Lou Krieger	Adam Mack	Gene Krieger
9	Larry Siebert	Quinn Rasnick	Ellen Siebert
16	Laura Nicholson	Andrea Westerfeld	Aaron Nicholson
23	Mary Lou Krieger	Alvin Harmeyer	Bob Krieger
24	Aaron Nicholson		Darrell Nicholson
30	Kathy Westerfeld	Tara Lay	Larry Siebert
January			
6	Laura Nicholson	Adam Mack	Gene Krieger
13	Larry Siebert	Ellen Siebert	Gena Mack
20	Gary Westerfeld	Darrell Nicholson	Bob Krieger
27	Aaron Nicholson	Quinn Rasnick	Debbie Krieger

Date	Greeters	Offering Counters	Accompanist
December			
2	Leslie and Martha Kessens	Les Kessens Gary Westerfeld	Andrea Westerfeld
9	Bob and Joyce Kessens	Curt Wehr Gene Krieger	Sheryl Harmeyer
16	Gene and Mary Lou Krieger	Dennis Westerfeld Larry Siebert	Kathy Westerfeld
23	Matthew and Julie Krieger	Arnie Wehr Gary Westerfeld	Kathy Westerfeld
24	Gary and Nan Larson	Dennis Westerfeld Larry Siebert	Sheryl Harmeyer
30	Bob and Anita Krieger	Les Kessens Gary Westerfeld	Andrea Westerfeld
January			
6	Tim and Debbie Mack	Gene Krieger Larry Siebert	Sheryl Harmeyer
13	Noah, Gena, and Adam Mack	Dennis Westerfeld Curt Wehr	Andrea Westerfeld
20	Chris and Jennifer Meyer Jordan and Luke	Les Kessens Gary Westerfeld	Sheryl Harmeyer
27	Tom and Pauletta Meyer	Gary Westerfeld Gene Krieger	Kathy Westerfeld

Worship leaders, please plan to arrive at church 10 minutes prior to worship. This allows time for preparation.

Date	Acolyte 1	Acolyte 2	Sound System
December			
2	Emily Borgman	Ashton Turner	Brandon Borgman
9	Hannah Barker	Haley Barker	Gena Mack
16	Brayden Siebert	Macy Young	Seth Gausman
23	Ethan Wehr	Carter Wehr	Adam Mack
24			

30	Isabelle Westerfeld	Luke Meyer	Jordan Meyer
January			
6	Lexi Allison	Madelyn Bohman	Gena Mack
13	Macy Young	Kennedy Rasnick	Seth Gausman
20	Emily Borgman	Will Westerfeld	Brandon Borgman
27	Damon Rippetoe	Cole Rippetoe	Adam Mack



December		
2	Hanging of the Greens	
	Blue Christmas Service	6:30 pm
5	Advent Service	6:30 pm
9	Christmas Caroling	1:00 pm
12	Advent Service	6:30 pm
16	Sunday school Christmas Program during worship	
19	Advent Service	6:30 pm
24	Christmas Eve Service	7:30 pm
30	Service of Lessons and Carols (no communion)	10:00 am

A POINSETTIA FOR CHRISTMAS

If you would like to honor the memory of or demonstrate your love and respect for someone by donating a poinsettia to be placed in the sanctuary, please complete the form below.

Poinsettias may be placed Saturday, December 16th.

A listing will be in the bulletin on December 17th, and 24th. To be included in this listing, forms must be turned in no later than Monday, December 11th.

I would like to donate a Poinsettia:

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

Signed _____



MISSION *Statement*

We are a family of believers who meet together to:

enjoy life together
worship and learn about God
make a difference in the world

St. Paul's Lutheran Church ELCA
"Crossroads"

664 South State Road 229

(One mile south of Batesville.)

Mailing address: PO Box 394

Office telephone: 812-934-3970

Email: stpauls.crossroads@gmail.com

Website: stpaulscrossroads.org

Find us on Facebook:

St. Paul Lutheran Church-Crossroads

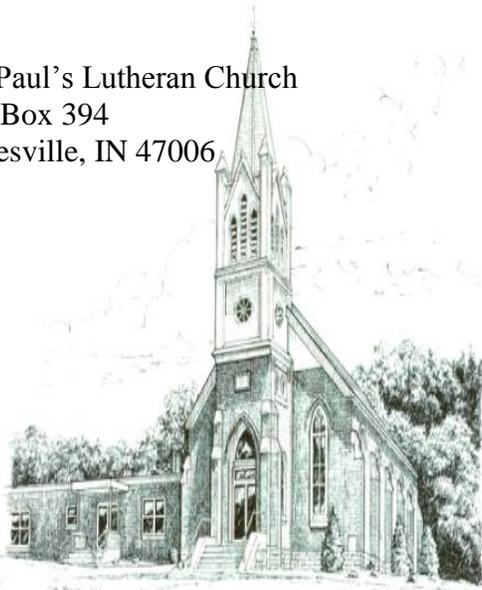
SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

Worship service 10:00 AM

Sunday School 9:00 AM

Faithfully Yours Radio Broadcast
103.9 FM – WRBI 9:00 AM

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
PO Box 394
Batesville, IN 47006



Return Service Requested

December 2018

Let your guard down – Let God in – Be among friends☺
Join us for worship