



**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**  
**December 16, 2018**

**Pastor**

Rev. Dennis Matyas, M.Div., S.T.M.  
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**Director of Family Life Ministry**

Mr. David Schultz

**Principal**

Mr. Jack Lustila

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

December 16, 2018

St. Paul Lutheran Church & School  
6100 Westside Saginaw Road  
Bay City, MI 48706  
Sunday Worship: 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.  
Bible Classes & Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

Website: [www.stpaulbaycity.org](http://www.stpaulbaycity.org)  
Church Phone: 989.686.7140  
School Phone: 989.684.4450  
Fax: 989.684.0882  
Email: [office@stpaulbaycity.org](mailto:office@stpaulbaycity.org)

## **WELCOME IN THE NAME OF JESUS TO ALL WHO WORSHIP WITH US HERE AT ST. PAUL LUTHERAN THIS MORNING!**

Visitors and guests, please sign the friendship pad (which is at the end of the row), and include your address and phone number.

Please take note of the communion information and guidelines on the inside upper panel of the friendship pad. If you are unable to come to the front for communion and desire to be communed, please sit on the end of the pew and notify the elder. Those receiving the individual cups are asked to please hold onto their cup until the elder passes by with the common cup so none will be missed.

Care cards, located in the pew rack ahead of you, can be used for prayer requests. Please hand the card to an usher or place it into the basket when the offering is received.

<b><u>LITURGY</u></b>	8:00 a.m. - Divine Service 2	10:30 a.m. - Divine Service 2 with Communion
<b><u>HYMNS</u></b>	8:00 a.m. - 345, 355, 383	10:30 a.m. - 345, 355, 342, 367, 333, 803, 383
<b><u>READERS</u></b>	8:00 a.m. - Ken Van Cise	10:30 a.m. - David Schultz
<b><u>ACOLYTES</u></b>	8:00 a.m. - Cadence Swartz	10:30 a.m. - Riley Jimenez
<b><u>GREETERS</u></b>	8:00 a.m. - Tom & Nancy Hoerauf, Lura Gehrman, Rita Tilley	10:30 a.m. - Marie Hendrick, Jean Begick, Jack & Kathy Lustila
<b><u>USHERS</u></b>	8:00 a.m. - Group 2 – Randy Appold, Weston Appold, Greg Behmlander, Matt Appold, Daryl Appold, Rylan Appold	10:30 a.m. - Group 5 – Bob Campbell, Terry Burkhard, Richard Doan

## RECORDS

**Patrick Thomas Wills** child of Allen & Teresa (Fritz) Switala, born October 20, 2018, will be baptized during our 10:30 service. Sponsors are Brian & Jennifer Fritz.

## PRAYER AND SUPPLICATION WITH THANKSGIVING

### SICK/INJURED

Ruth Behmlander (pace maker)

### HOMEBOUND

Dorine Auernhammer

Erv Hoerauf

Julie Roark

Dolores Appold

Jon Ittner

Herb Schmidt

Gwen Bakus

Lorna Ittner

Rose Anne Schmidt

Armond Beiser

Mike & Karen Kusch

Al Vogtmann

Dorothy David

Irma McKenzie

Tim Wegener

Margaret Meyer

### BEREAVED

(family & friends of)

Herb Schmidt

### SPECIAL

Jeff Schlicker (Loretta's son; cancer)

Mike Ruegsegger (Denise's father-in-law)

### THIS WEEK'S MEMBERS

Jim, Robin, & Jarrett Begick

Robbin & Morgan Navarro-Dean

Elke & Jessica Burzynski

Scott & Sophia Szczepanski & Jayneé  
Gassman

Bob & Diane HOFFORD

Ferdinand Zeilinger

## THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL

SUNDAY 12/16

8:00 a.m. Worship

9:15 a.m. Bible Classes & Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Worship with Communion

1:00 p.m. Voters Meeting

TUESDAY 12/18

7:00 p.m. Men's Club

WEDNESDAY 12/19

9:00 a.m. Children's Christmas Program

6:30 p.m. Children's Christmas Program

THURSDAY 12/20

6:00 p.m. Friendship Circle Christmas Party

FRIDAY 12/21

11:30 a.m. Early Dismissal at School

NEXT SUNDAY 12/23

8:00 a.m. Worship with Communion

9:15 a.m. Bible Class

10:30 a.m. Worship

## **NOTES AND NEWS**

**ATTENDANCE** Last Sunday – 366 (202, 164)

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS**      Dec. 16 – Rev. 11                      Dec. 17 – Rev. 12  
Dec. 18 – Ps. 146-147      Dec. 19 – Proverbs 30      Dec. 20 – Rev. 13  
Dec. 21 – Rev. 14              Dec. 22 – Rev. 15

**MEMORIAL GIVEN** The new Christmas stars and angel were donated by the Schlicker family in memory of Larry Schlicker, who died on December 19, 2012.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS – TODAY 9:15 a.m.** During Sunday School on December 16, we will host the annual Birthday Party for Jesus. Children, Preschool through 8th Grade, can join us for activities, crafts, snacks and prizes, celebrating Jesus' birthday. Please note that Sunday School will not meet on Sunday, December 23 and Sunday, December 30. Child Care will be provided on those dates in the Preschool room, for those who would like to attend adult Bible classes on December 23 and 30.

### **JOIN US FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS WORSHIP**

#### **Children's Christmas Program (Preschool-8th Grade):**

Wednesday, December 19 at 9:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.

Ice Cream Social at the school following the evening service

Freewill offering to support the Ministry Center campaign

#### **Christmas Eve Services:**

Monday, December 24

Celebration & Praise with Communion at 3:15 p.m.

Traditional Worship with Communion at 6:30 p.m.

Christmas Vespers at 11 p.m.

#### **Christmas Day Service:**

Tuesday, December 25 at 9 a.m.

#### **New Year's Eve Services:**

Monday, December 31

New Year's Eve Worship with Communion at 6:30 p.m.

*December 24-January 2: No School - Christmas Break*

*There is no church service on New Year's Day.*

**NEED GIFT CARDS FOR CHRISTMAS?** With over 50 different cards to choose from, the scrip box is bound to have that perfect gift card for the people on your list. Please see the person selling at the back of church or stop in the office, or take an order form home. We do have a lot on hand. If not, it only takes a few business days to get them in. To ensure we have what you need, please place all orders by Dec.

17th. Any questions, please contact Megan Lowe 989-684-4450 or treasurer@stpaulbaycity.org. Thank you for supporting our school.

**THANK YOU!** We would like to extend a big thank you to all for the generous donations to the sharing /caring tree. We delivered 51 gifts to Wellspring Lutheran Services this week and they were very grateful for our support. Thanks again, Cheryl and Angie

**THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU FROM LADIES AID** How blessed we are to have so many people willing to help us with our Ladies Aid Bake Sale! Thank you to all who participated in the frying, baking, bringing baked goods in, helping with frosting, setting up in the gym, and everything else, too. We are truly thankful for all the help you gave us.

### **WILD GAME DINNER & SILENT AUCTION**

*Mark your Calendar, Save the Date,  
Find your Recipe, Even Donate!*

The annual Youth Wild Game Potluck and Silent Auction will be on Sunday, January 27, from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. The Silent Auction will end at 1:30 and Door Prizes drawn after that. So save some of your harvest, find your favorite recipe, and come enjoy tasty food and fellowship. To donate items for auction or Door Prizes, contact David Schultz.

**FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE CHRISTMAS PARTY** This is just a reminder – you've made your reservations - December 20, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. in St. Paul auditorium! It's the count-down days for choosing your Secret Pal gift, gifts for spouses and guests, tucking your table offering in your wallet! Look forward to a great meal, merriment, and music by a few vocalists from VLHS, who will expect some audience participation! "Fa-la-la-la la, la-la, la, La!

### **STEWARDSHIP** We Offer ourselves to the Lord (Part 4)

We have listened to God's Word both read and preached. He has spoken to us in mercy and blessing. Now we would offer to Him our hearts and lives that He might make us eager and strong to do His will in thought, word and deed.

THE OFFERTORY (p. 22): Using David's words of repentance from Psalm 51, we confess our humble and grateful acceptance of the Word and offer ourselves in thanksgiving to the Lord.

THE OFFERING: We bring our offerings to God's altar: These gifts can be meaningful only if we recognize them as token of our entire selves, given in worship and service to our Lord.

PRAYERS: We pray God to fulfill our needs, the needs of the Church, and the needs of all people. In these prayers we express our belief in the Priesthood of all believers, for here the Pastor does not pray in our behalf as we listen, but rather his words are the prayers we each in our own hearts are individually bringing to God in Jesus' name.

What blessings God has given St Paul Lutheran Church and to each of us today!

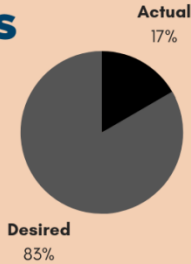
STEWARDSHIP - A way of life

# JOIN THE JOURNEY to the Ministry Center

**Pledges required have been met. If you haven't pledged yet, please Join the Journey!**

**Additional  
Upfront Gifts  
Received:**

**\$154,000 /  
\$925,000**



## **3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

### **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

Zephaniah 3:14–20 (ESV)

<sup>14</sup> Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;  
shout, O Israel!  
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter of Jerusalem!

<sup>15</sup> The LORD has taken away the judgments against you;  
he has cleared away your enemies.  
The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;  
you shall never again fear evil.

<sup>16</sup> On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
“Fear not, O Zion;  
let not your hands grow weak.

<sup>17</sup> The LORD your God is in your midst,  
a mighty one who will save;  
he will rejoice over you with gladness;  
he will quiet you by his love;  
he will exult over you with loud singing.

<sup>18</sup> I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival,  
so that you will no longer suffer reproach.

<sup>19</sup> Behold, at that time I will deal  
with all your oppressors.  
And I will save the lame  
and gather the outcast,  
and I will change their shame into praise  
and renown in all the earth.

<sup>20</sup> At that time I will bring you in,  
at the time when I gather you together;  
for I will make you renowned and praised  
among all the peoples of the earth,  
when I restore your fortunes  
before your eyes,” says the LORD.

### **EPISTLE READING**

Philippians 4:4–7 (ESV)

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup> Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; <sup>6</sup> do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

### **HOLY GOSPEL**

Luke 7:18–28 (ESV)

<sup>18</sup> The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, <sup>19</sup> calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” <sup>20</sup> And when the men had come to him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to you,

saying, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?'" <sup>21</sup> In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. <sup>22</sup> And he answered them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. <sup>23</sup> And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

<sup>24</sup> When John's messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>25</sup> What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings' courts. <sup>26</sup> What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>27</sup> This is he of whom it is written,

"Behold, I send my messenger before your face,  
who will prepare your way before you.'

<sup>28</sup> I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."