



4th Sunday of Advent
December 23, 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

PRAYER AND SUPPLICATION WITH THANKSGIVING

SICK/INJURED Wayne Zeilinger (recovering from hip surgery)

<u>HOMEBOUND</u>	Erv Hoerauf	Julie Roark
Dorine Auernhammer	Jon Ittner	Rose Anne Schmidt
Dolores Appold	Lorna Ittner	Al Vogtmann
Gwen Bakus	Mike & Karen Kusch	Tim Wegener
Armond Beiser	Irma McKenzie	
Dorothy David	Margaret Meyer	

SPECIAL Jeff Schlicker (Loretta's son; cancer)
Mike Ruegsegger (Denise's father-in-law)

<u>THIS WEEK'S MEMBERS</u>	Steffanie & Chase LeBeau
Jean Begick	Kimberlee & Tylee Nemode
Christine Busch & Kayden Robar	Christa Theiss
Ann Houghtaling	Kenneth & Justin Zeilinger

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL

SUNDAY 12/23 8:00 a.m. Worship with Communion
9:15 a.m. Bible Class
10:30 a.m. Worship

MONDAY 12/24 3:15 p.m. Celebration & Praise with Communion
6:30 p.m. Traditional Worship with Communion
11:00 p.m. Christmas Vespers

TUESDAY 12/25 9:00 a.m. Christmas Day Worship

NEXT SUNDAY 12/30 8:00 a.m. Worship
9:15 a.m. Bible Class
10:30 a.m. Worship
1:00 p.m. Funeral for Herb Schmidt

NOTES AND NEWS

ATTENDANCE Last Sunday – 375 (215, 160), Advent Song Service – 168,
Children's Christmas Program – 563 (252, 311)

<u>DAILY BIBLE READINGS</u>	Dec. 23 – Rev. 16	Dec. 24 – Rev. 17
Dec. 25 – Proverbs 31	Dec. 26 – Rev. 18	Dec. 27 – Rev. 19
Dec. 28 – Rev. 20	Dec. 29 – Rev. 21	

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.

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY Please note that Sunday School will not meet on Sunday, December 23 and Sunday, December 30. Child Care will be provided in the Preschool room for those who would like to attend adult Bible classes on December 23 and 30.

JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

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.

VISUAL FAITH FOURTH THURSDAY Join Visual Faith Coach Katie Helmreich for a monthly opportunity to use Visual Faith practices together with fellow believers. No experience is needed, simply bring a willing heart and a love of creativity. We will read, reflect, and respond to God's Word in a meaningful and creative way. Visual Faith Fourth Thursday will meet on the fourth Thursday of the month beginning January 2019, from 6:30-8:30 pm, in the multipurpose room of the school. Call or text Katie with questions at 989.225.3532.

SAUERKRAUT FOR SALE Tom DePrekel is taking more orders for kraut this Sunday. Orders will be available Sunday, January 6. Talk to him for more details.

VALLEY LUTHERAN THANKS YOU! Thank you to all churches and people associated in any way with our Fruit Sale Fundraiser. Our appreciation to all buyers, sellers, distributors and helpers for your cooperation & support. Money raised will help support music, drama, athletics and many other activities at Valley Lutheran High School. Through your support and the student body, we are fortunate and thankful to meet our goal! Total boxes sold for 2018 were 385 = 11,550 pounds. Wow!

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

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.

STEWARDSHIP Christmas is all about giving, but how many of us stop to think about the reasons why we give and how it relates to our faith? For Christians, the surprise of Christmas is the baby being born in poverty and in exile, but too often that baby gets lost behind the pile of presents. We are surrounded by gift giving and receiving and it's important to remember the overwhelming generosity of God in the midst of that and to think about what we are giving back. Could you give your church a Christmas present, either financially or in terms of your time?

Statistics show that increasing numbers of people are coming into our churches over the Christmas period. Carol services, children program, Christmas Eve and Christmas day are all an opportunity to show God's generosity to our local community. Rather than being tempted to grumble about those that only come into church once a year, welcome them in to share God's most generous gift to our world in Jesus and also give them a chance to respond to that generosity. Visitors will often want to say thank you for a good experience and we should make that as easy for them possible...but we shouldn't expect it!

STEWARDSHIP in its widest sense often comes alive in the festivals, but in the busyness of the season, it is often not considered in a planned way. What does Christmas mean to you?

STEWARDSHIP - A way of life

AREA EVENTS

Chicken Barbeque Dinner at Valley Lutheran High School You are invited to a little taste of summer on Sunday, January 13, 2019, at Valley Lutheran High School, 3560 McCarty Rd, Saginaw. The St. John Amelith Men's Athletic Club is once again barbecuing chicken at Valley Lutheran. Dinner begins at 11:00 am and will be served until 1:30 pm and includes real mashed potatoes, corn, a roll, homemade coleslaw, and pie. Price is \$11 for a half chicken meal or \$9 for a quarter chicken meal. Please consider joining us or order for take-out. Proceeds will benefit the athletic, drama and music departments at Valley Lutheran. Thank you for your support!

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Micah 5:2–5a (ESV)

² But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has given birth;
then the rest of his brothers shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴ And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the
LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth.

⁵ And he shall be their peace.

EPISTLE READING

Hebrews 10:5–10 (ESV)

⁵ When Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body have you prepared for me;

⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

⁷ Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O God,
as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’”

⁸ When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), ⁹ then he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰ And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 1:39–56 (ESV)

³⁹ In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰ and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴² and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³ And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.

⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

⁴⁶ And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹ for he who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

⁵⁰ And his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

⁵² he has brought down the mighty from their thrones
and exalted those of humble estate;

⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent empty away.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵ as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his offspring forever."

⁵⁶ And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.