



## LCMS Stewardship Ministry

“We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves” (1 Thess. 5:12-13).

Have you finished your Christmas shopping yet? Do you have a person or two on your list that you just don't know what to give them? While I know you are running short of ideas...dad doesn't really want another tie, and your kid's teacher doesn't need another coffee mug. It can be nothing short of maddening to try to figure things out in the middle of this busy season!

As stewards of all of life and life's resources, we know that life is more than giving gifts. We stewards never want to take anything the Lord provides for granted. During this season of Advent and Christmas, it is a great idea to do whatever you can to be a faithful steward of your pastor. Even more so than the rest of the year, the demands on their time, their presence and their stewardship of the Gospel in the congregation become heightened.

The demands on pastors can wear them down and wear them out. How does the steward in the congregation serve as a faithful steward of the treasure that is their pastor? Here are a few ideas:

- Put them at the top of your prayer list. – Pray that the Lord guards them against the weariness that makes them susceptible to the work of the devil.
  - Make worship a priority – St. Paul admonishes the Thessalonians and us to respect those who labor among us. There is no greater way to steward your pastor than to respect him enough to show up and receive what he has been sent to offer in the proclamation of the Gospel and administration of the Holy Sacraments.
  - Be receptive to his work – If your pastor is tasked with calling you to repentance or encouraging you to be in worship, know that he is only caring for your soul.
  - Esteem him highly – Take the time to thank him for his faithful service to Christ, the congregation and your family.
  - Be at peace – This is an easy time for even minor annoyances to get blown out of proportion and become full-blown conflict. This not only spoils the season of Advent and Christmas, but it also spoils our stewardship of the Gospel and those who serve us in that Gospel. Remember that Jesus came into the world to be the Prince of Peace. This is an act of grace and mercy. The steward seeks to reflect this toward their

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**LCMS STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY** continued

pastor and their brothers and sisters in Christ.

Stewardship at Christmas can be a challenge. Stewardship of your pastor during this time of the year is critical to our shared stewardship of the Gospel at a time of year when many are more open to hear and receive it.

LCMS Stewardship Ministry. (2025, December). *LCMS Stewardship Ministry, Newsletter Article.*

<https://resources.lcms.org/tag/stewardship-monthly-resources/>

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## Unto You Is Born a Savior: An excerpt from Luther's Christmas 1544 sermon

By: Matthew Harrison



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*An excerpt from Luther's Christmas 1544 sermon*

*It's a marvel that we can "listen in" to Martin Luther's own sermon on Luke 2, from Christmas 1544. Luther emphasizes two marvelous points: Christ took on our flesh and was born of the Virgin Mary. And He did this "for you." That's all we need for a truly Merry Christmas. —Pastor Matthew C. Harrison*

This highest work [Christ taking on our flesh and being born in Bethlehem] is done "for us and for our salvation"; as the angel sings: "Unto you is born a Savior" [Luke 2:11]. That the son of God becomes like us would be quite enough. But that is not all. Not only does He become flesh and blood, etc., but your Savior. You are subject to death, sin, and the devil. He wants to redeem you from them. Who will believe this? Ah, heavenly Father, You put Your Son at a maiden's breast to nurse Him and then let Him be hung upon the cross to die — and all this takes place for our sakes. Who will not rejoice at this? Surely we would die of joy, if we [considered this] aright. But our flesh and the devil prevent it. That is our misery and sadness: that I read this and hear it preached that it is so; the prophets proclaim it; the angels preach; the shepherds spread the report that Christ has come and the angels sing; the apostles do miracles to attest it; and the holy Church still sings [about it]. But how is it that it does not penetrate us, so that we say: "The One who is like you is God the Creator; He nurses at the breast, and yet He is my God; and all this so that He might deliver me"? What a clod and stump am I, that I do not receive Him and acknowledge Him as my Savior? [God says,] "This Child was not given only to the mother so that she might supply Him with milk, but for you, so that He might die and deliver you from My wrath." All this I hear preached and I read;

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**UNTO YOU IS BORN A SAVIOR: AN EXCERPT FROM LUTHER'S CHRISTMAS 1544 SERMON** *continued*

I have it painted and sung for me, but I do not take it to heart. I go away as if I had been listening to a fable ... Should I not think: "If this Child whom the mother embraces is mine, if He is my brother, how, then, should I respond?" It would be no wonder if we became righteous from the heart, even without any other teaching. But we should be warmed and even melt with joy. But the devil has poisoned our flesh and blood so that they will not allow us to attain that fruit and joy, where I hear: "This little Boy does not belong to the mother, but to you, not only as He clings to her ... but also as He hangs upon the cross. It is most certain that He has been given and born for you." Then the heart is warmed and says: "If this is true, then there is no ill so great that I would not endure it, even if I had to suffer still more. But on the contrary, [He suffers], and for the sake of the son, I should give eternal thanks from the heart, and my mouth and heart should overflow with joy." That is what should happen, and it does happen among Christians, so that their eyes cry tears of joy. But the crude masses go their way and remain [unaffected]. That is a sign that you do not believe this work. Otherwise, you would reform yourself and rejoice. [If you want to know] how we have reformed ourselves, look at the greed and fornication. We continue in sin and shame, scraping and scratching. Oh, woe to those for whom this work seems to have been done in vain, men of iron who despise this work and let it be preached but do not take the work to heart, though it is [proclaimed] throughout the whole of Scripture. Let there be weeping and lamentation over those who receive no benefit from this, and no fruit of joy ensues.

[But] the dear holy angels sing: "Glory to God in the highest, [and on earth, peace,] goodwill!" [Luke 2:14]. "Goodwill" means [God's] good pleasure and joy. God has not sent this work into the world with a grim countenance, with stormy brow. Rather, as [He says] at the Jordan: "This is My beloved Son" [Matt. 3:17]. All things laugh — the angels, the creatures — only the devil and the flesh do not. The angels are filled with joy, and the work has nothing to do with them. They had reason for being envious and sour. But these best of spirits sing: "Glory!" — [glory] for all the works of God, but especially for this one, as if to say, "Truly, the one who does such a thing, who sends His Son to cling to a maiden's neck, and not only for the honor but also for the eternal salvation of mankind, such a one is God indeed!" That is grace, love, mercy indeed; for this He is worthy of praise. And this not only in heaven but also on earth; whatever lives and moves shall have peace, good days, and rest, and "goodwill to men."

*From Martin Luther, "Sermon for Christmas Vespers, (Luke 2[:8–14])," in Luther's Works: Sermons V, ed. Christopher Boyd Brown, trans. Christopher Boyd Brown, vol. 58 (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 2010), 194–195.*

## About The Author

[Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison](#) is president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Harrison, Matthew., (2021, December 1). Unto You Is Born a Savior: An excerpt from Luther's Christmas 1544 sermon. *The Lutheran Witness-Articles*, <https://witness.lcms.org/2021/unto-you-is-born-a-savior-an-excerpt-from-luthers-christmas-1544-sermon/>





## *Life Quotes for December*

**December 7** “Children brightly signaled hope in our sin-infested world of old—consider the births of Seth, Isaac, Moses, Samson, Samuel, John, and, finally, of course and paramount, Jesus. And we, too, must become as children.” *James M. Kushiner, Fellowship of St. James – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life* • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)

**December 14** “And every life matters to God. It is impossible to live—even for a few moments on this earth—and not influence somebody in one way or another. We are all always influencing somebody—either for good or for bad. Life matters. Your life matters. Lives of kings and lives of shepherds all matter. We all matter and are important to God.” *Dennis D. Nelson, Lutheran CORE – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life* • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)

**December 21** “As we celebrate the birth of our Lord, let us pray for all mothers who find themselves pregnant and afraid. Abortion is never the answer. We pray daily that the Lord will strengthen all expectant mothers who find themselves alone and seemingly without hope and that He will help them choose life. Every human being’s life is a precious and beautiful miracle.” *Judie Brown, American Life League – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life* • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)

**December 28** “Look back at how God changed you. Look ahead to what God promises for you. The future looks bright when you’re connected to the crucified and risen Lord Jesus. May the Lord continue to strengthen you to live in your baptismal grace all the days of your life.” *Rev. Peter Sulzle, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life* • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)



# Announcements



## Giving Tree

The Giving Tree is up and items are being collected for Project Hope and Sub Zero Mission. Items will be collected through the weekend of January 4 & 5, 2025. The following are the items that each organization is requesting.

### SUB ZERO MISSION

*CLEAN, GENTLY USED or NEW ITEMS (for men and women)*

- Winter Hats
- Coats (Adult L-4XL)
- Gloves
- Books
- Sleeping Bags
- NEW Socks ONLY
- Tents
- Handwarmers

### PROJECT HOPE

- Coffee - Regular or Decaf
- 16 oz. Disposable Bowls
- 6" Disposable Plates
- 12 oz. Styrofoam Cups
- 13/33 Gallon Trash Bags
- Toilet Bowl Cleaner
- New Towels
- Drink Mix (NO Red)
- Lysol Spray
- Jelly
- Latex Gloves - Large
- Press-n-Seal Wrap
- Creamer
- Lunch Chips
- Sugar
- Giant Eagle
- Sheetz
- Walmart

## St. Paul's Celebration Choir

We would like to invite and welcome the congregation to join us on Christmas Eve to sing in the Celebration Choir! We will perform a song at the beginning of the first service as we await the coming of Christ. All ages are welcome, no music experience required! Rehearsals will be held shortly after the service on Sundays for 20-25 minutes in the classroom next to the kitchen. Our first rehearsal will be Sunday, November 30th. Any questions please see Matt Chaffe. Happy Singing!



## Christmas Eve Services

Please join us for our Christmas Eve Services which will be held at 4:00pm and 7:00pm. The Celebration Choir will be singing at the beginning of the 4:00 pm service. Hope to see you there!!

## Adopt-a-Family

Welcome back to our 2025 Adopt-A-Family outreach! This year, we are honored to support 4–5 families from the University Hospital Pediatric Unit, as well as one local family in need.

### How You Can Help

- Donation items will be posted on the Adopt-A-Family bulletin board located at the back of the sanctuary beginning the week-end of November 29.
- Please return all purchased items to the church by December 10. Gifts should be unwrapped, with the original label indicating which family member they are for.
- Donations of wrapping supplies—including wrapping paper, gift bags, boxes, tape, or gift tags—are also appreciated. These can be placed near the bulletin board.

All gifts will be wrapped and give to the families on either Dec 14th or the 21st.

Thank you for your generosity and for helping bring joy to families in need!



## Christmas Card are Here!!!



Christmas cards are out and are located on the table at the back of the sanctuary. All single cards are 75¢ a piece. Boxed cards are priced as marked. Please use the envelopes provided for your payment. Place the envelope in the offering plate during church service. Proceeds will be used for Outreach events throughout the year.



Don't forget to support the other greeting cards available.

There are Birthday, Anniversary, Get Well, Sympathy, Blank Inside and many others to purchasing for friends or family members who are having a special event or need encouragement These card are also 75¢ a piece.

## 2026 Offering Envelopes

The offering envelopes for 2026 will be available in early December and will be located on a table in the front vestibule. Please do not start to use them until after January 2026. If you did not receive envelopes or if you have never received envelopes before and would like to start, please let Tom Cardina know and he will set you up with a box.



## December Food Bank Items

Zion Food Pantry is requesting, gravy packets or jars, individually wrapped toilet paper and hamburger helper. As always other items are appreciated. For those in need, the Food Bank is open on the last two Tuesdays of the month from 5:30–7:00pm. (December 23 & 30).



## Adult Information Class

An "Adult Information Class" for those interested in becoming members of St. Paul's will begin on Sunday, January 4, 2026, beginning at 8:30 AM in the pastor's office. The class will dismiss for worship just before 9:30 AM. If you are interested, please email Jack Lelle, [jllelle@yahoo.com](mailto:jllelle@yahoo.com), to register or to ask questions.



## From the Preschool

### *Preschool Christmas Program*

It's that time of year again! The children are full of excitement. Christmas is a time of joy and celebration and the preschool would like to invite you to our Christmas Program. The children are working hard to learn their lines and the songs. If you are able, please join us on **Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:10 am**. The program will be about 30 minutes.

All of the staff at St. Paul's Preschool wish you a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year!





## November Meeting Minutes

### Reports

1. President's Report. (Terry Wakelee)
    - a. Attendance is strong, offerings lag behind
    - b. Parsonage work continues
    - c. Call Committee started review of new candidate information, setting up interviews
    - d. Pulpit supply is filled thru Easter 2026
  2. Vice President's Report. (Ed Hines)
    - a. Snowplowing- 3 estimates on table
      - i. Motion to accept Adam Friedel, LazerScapes, for plowing contract (Dec-March)- motion approved by all
    - b. Motion for keeping the salting in the parking lot -4- agreed, 5- opposed
      - ii. Will decide to salt as needed, per action
  3. Treasurer's Report. (Russ Walton)
    - a. Provided financial statements through September 2025.
    - b. Collections have been lower than last year. Pastor costs are lower and guest Pastors are higher. Utility costs are up as the church is paying for the parsonage this year. Overall okay but trending in the wrong direction.
  4. Education Report. (Eric Drake)
    - a. Average attendance for Sunday School-8 kids, Adult Bible Study- 12
    - b. Adopt-a-Family begins Thanksgiving weekend
  5. Preschool Report. (Starshine Graziadei)
    - a. No report, next meeting on the 10th
  6. Elder's Report. (Dale Kerver)
    - a. Reinstated 8 members, working on another 4 to finishing membership
    - b. Pulpit supply in place through Easter 2016. Pastor Moyer will do rotation during Lenten Services
  7. Stewardship Report. (Diane Wayner)
    - a. 28 people showed up to Turkey Bowl
    - b. Giving Tree will go to SubZero and Project Hope- starting week of Nov. 17th
  8. Financial Secretary's Report. (Jenn Drake)
    - a. No report
  9. Outreach Report. (Kelly Hines)
    - a. Motion by Eric Drake to continue placemat ad in Perry Family Rest. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Star Graziadei
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**NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES continued**

- i. No discussion- if we do not get any visitors we will cease to use the placemats
  - b. Trunk-or-Treat was a success, 123 kids, 93 adults
  - c. Star and Kelly will work on transitioning the website before New Year
  - d. Crochet with Christ has 11 signed up
10. Building & Grounds Report. (Dennis Concoby)
- a. Internet needs improved, Spectrum came out for a service call
  - b. Parsonage
    - i. Major plumbing needs completed
    - ii. Landscaping has been removed and completed
    - iii. \$35,000 in the remodel as of date
  - c. New refrigerator is in garage, old fridge has now been working
- Contribution Secretary's Report. (Tom Cardina)
- a. Three-year trend of lower contribution envelopes

**Old Business**

1. Potential candidate for the preschool treasurer (appointed)
  - a. No update
2. Parsonage fence repairs. On hold.
  - a. No update
3. Call Committee update
  - a. In Presidents report
4. Commercial refrigerator replacement
5. Replacement of church office computer
  - a. Joe Graziadei suggested to purchase a new computer
6. Sanctuary carpet replacement
  - a. Dennis Concoby proposes to re-floor the Sanctuary, will bring up discussion at November Congregational Meeting
7. Parsonage tree trimming in fall

**New Business**

Semi-annual meeting on Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>, reports are needed

**Next meeting: Wednesday, December 3rd, 2025 @ 6:30pm**



## December Birthdays

Henry West	Dec 04
Diana Kiel	Dec 05
Dale Kerver	Dec 07
Charles Atwell	Dec 13
Kathy Emrich	Dec 20
Jacob Chaffe	Dec 21
Russ Walton	Dec 24



## December Anniversaries

Jay and Laura Harris	34 years on Dec 07
Bernie and Lauren Michalak	4 years on Dec 07
Matthew and Madeline West	11 years on Dec 28



## Altar Flowers



A great way to remember any occasion is with Altar Flowers. The Altar Flower Chart is located on the double doors at the back of the Sanctuary. Just sign up next to the appropriate weekend. Clearly print the occasion being remembered, who the flowers are for and who they're from. Altar flowers are \$40.00. Please place the monies in an envelope labeled "Altar Flowers" with the date of the weekend and put it in the collection plate.



# Those Who Serve: December 2025

## ELDERS:

6:00 P Saturday Aaron Lindrose  
 9:30 A Sunday Rich Szoradi

## COUNTERS:

Jenn Drake, Debbi Davis,  
 Laurie Srebernak

## LECTORS:

12-06-25	6:00 P	Saturday	Dale Kerver
12-07-25	9:30 A	Sunday	Jack Lelle
12-13-25	6:00 P	Saturday	Dave Murphy
12-14-25	9:30 A	Sunday	Terry Wakelee
12-20-25	6:00 P	Saturday	Dave Murphy
12-21-25	9:30 A	Sunday	Craig McConnell
12-24-25	4:00 P	Christmas Eve	TBD
12-24-25	7:30 p	Christmas Eve	TBD
12-27-25	6:00 P	Saturday	Dave Murphy
12-28-25	9:30 A	Sunday	Dennis Concoby



## Scripture Readings for December

<p><b>Dec 6/7</b>          Isaiah 11:1-10          Romans 15:4-13          Matthew 3:1-12</p>	<p><b>Dec 20/21</b>          Isaiah 7:10-17          Romans 1:1-7          Matthew 1:18/25</p>	<p><b>Christmas Eve</b>          Isaiah 7:10-14          1 John 4:7-16          Matthew 1:18-25</p>
<p><b>Dec 13/14</b>          Isaiah 35:1-10          James 5:7-11          Matthew 11:2-15</p>		<p><b>Dec 27-28</b>          Isaiah 63:7-14          Galatians 4:4-7          Matthew 2:12-23</p>



# December Word Search

B	C	A	R	O	L	I	N	G	D	J	X	S	W
A	M	I	S	C	L	E	T	O	E	L	O	S	Q
B	W	Y	M	A	H	S	T	Y	U	X	Q	Y	F
Y	I	O	A	N	I	R	T	G	P	X	C	W	R
J	S	U	R	G	M	M	I	A	K	T	C	Y	A
E	E	I	Y	E	L	M	M	S	B	T	E	S	N
S	M	S	B	L	N	N	X	Y	T	L	C	N	K
U	E	F	A	P	T	A	W	J	H	M	E	O	I
S	N	W	P	V	Y	J	T	U	V	R	A	W	N
V	K	N	R	N	I	A	O	I	K	O	R	S	C
W	I	N	T	E	R	O	V	S	V	Y	M	Y	E
G	I	F	T	S	Y	K	R	D	E	I	C	A	N
P	O	I	N	S	E	T	T	I	A	P	T	N	S
E	L	G	O	L	D	N	X	R	Y	P	H	Y	E

CHRISTMAS  
SNOW  
WINTER  
CAROLING  
JOY  
SAVIOR  
ANGEL  
NATIVITY  
BABY JESUS  
WISEMEN  
STABLE  
GOLD  
FRAKINSENCE  
MYHRR  
POINSETTIA  
JOSEPH  
MARY  
GIFTS  
MISTLETOE

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*"I was glad when they said to me 'Let us go to the house of the Lord'" Psalm 122:1*

#### Staff

Matt Chaffe, Organist  
Peggy McDonnell, Admin Assistant

#### Worship Services

Saturday 6:00 pm  
Sunday 9:30 am

#### Sunday Bible Study

Children 10:45 am

#### St. Paul's Preschool

Amy Marizek, Director  
[preschool@splcpainesville.org](mailto:preschool@splcpainesville.org)  
[www.stpaulspainesville.com](http://www.stpaulspainesville.com)

Also Supporting



St. Paul's Preschool



# December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">Office Hours Monday-Friday 9:00am-12:00pm</div> <div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 5px;">Bulletin Announcements Due Wednesdays</div>	1 Preschool Classes Resume Cyber Monday	2 Preschool Chapel Giving Tuesday	3 6:30 pm Council Meeting	4 6:00 pm Crochet for Christ Workshop	5 International Volunteer Day	6 
7  2nd Sunday in Advent 10:45 am Call Meeting	8 Green Monday	9	10 6:30 pm Elder's Meeting	11	12	13 National Cocoa Day
14 3rd Sunday in Advent	15	16 5:00 pm Preschool Christmas Dinner	17 National Maple Syrup Day	18 Preschool Christmas Program and Parties	19 <div style="border: 1px dashed green; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">March Newsletter Articles and Announcements Due</div>	20 
21   4th Sunday in Advent	22 Preschool-Christmas Break	23 Preschool-Christmas Break	24  Christmas Eve CANDLELIGHT SERVICE with Communion 4:00 pm & 7:30 pm	25  Church Office Closed	26 Church Office Closed Preschool-Christmas Break	27
28	29 Preschool-Christmas Break	30 Preschool-Christmas Break	31  Preschool-Christmas Break	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">  COMMUNION SERVICE         </div> <div style="text-align: right;"> <b>WORSHIP SCHEDULE</b>            Saturdays - 6:00pm            Sundays - 9:30am            Sunday School - 10:45am            Adult Bible Study—8:30am &amp; 10:45am         </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="text-align: center;">Dec Birthstone Turquoise &amp; Blue Topaz</div> <div style="text-align: center;">Dec Flower Narcissus &amp; Holly</div> </div>		