

The St. Paul's

CONNECTION

December 2018

Volume 1, Issue 12



Pastor's Logos (word):

Do our Actions Serve Christ?

BY PASTOR PAUL COEN

The midterm elections are done and now we can get a break from politics and the culture wars. Oh, if it were only so! My belief is that we will find ourselves even more inundated with political ads and cultural pontifications on cable news, social media and whatever other information sources that invade our lives.

Jesus and the Apostle Paul regularly speak about false gospels. They address the falsehoods, empty promises and legalism that are proclaimed falsely as God's Word. Jesus warns and St. Paul refutes. Whether it is politics of the Roman Empire or sectarian infighting of Jewish religious groups, it's the same old same old and not any less destructive to community or freedom.

Sometimes I must sound like a broken record. They asked Martin Luther once why he preached grace and the power of the cross every Sunday? His answer: "Because we forget!" This is most certainly true. They say you have to share positive news at least seven times for it to be heard and negative news only three times. Honestly, I think it might be seventy times seven for the good news and only once for the bad!

We are challenged as a church, as followers of Christ to share and repeat the Good News as often as we can and sometimes, we use actions. Yes, that's right . . . the most powerful communication tools in our role and mission of sharing the Good News is in our actions. This is not a

matter of what Jesus would do, but rather, what Jesus has done! We reflect the light of Christ, we share Christ's love, and we live in a manner that tells folks, through our actions, that we serve Christ by serving others.

Notice this has nothing to do

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A LOOK INSIDE

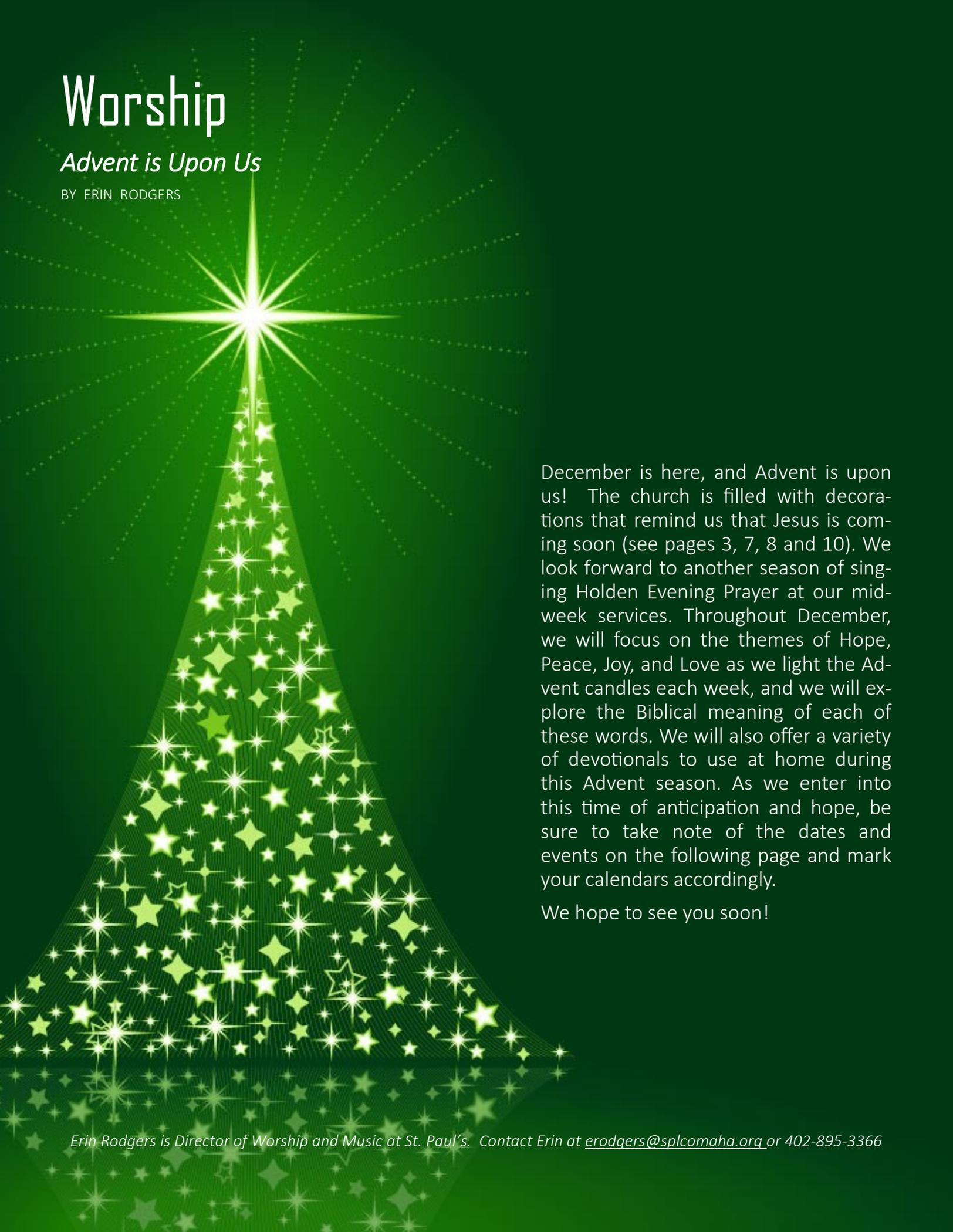
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Worship

Advent is Upon Us

BY ERIN RODGERS



December is here, and Advent is upon us! The church is filled with decorations that remind us that Jesus is coming soon (see pages 3, 7, 8 and 10). We look forward to another season of singing Holden Evening Prayer at our mid-week services. Throughout December, we will focus on the themes of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love as we light the Advent candles each week, and we will explore the Biblical meaning of each of these words. We will also offer a variety of devotionals to use at home during this Advent season. As we enter into this time of anticipation and hope, be sure to take note of the dates and events on the following page and mark your calendars accordingly.

We hope to see you soon!

Erin Rodgers is Director of Worship and Music at St. Paul's. Contact Erin at erodgers@splcomaha.org or 402-895-3366

Worship CONTINUED



Lighting the Advent Wreath in the Tradition of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love

In the ancient world, various peoples lit fires to mark the turning of the light into winter's season and to pray for the return of the light. The church has Christianized that practice in the lighting of the Advent wreath. To us, these candles are signs of the growing light of Christ who is coming again in all fullness into the darkness of our world. Until the dawning of that Great Day, we watch and wait in the Holy Spirit for Christ's coming into the darkness of our world, lighting candles of hope, peace, joy, and love; and remembering the promises of God with prayer.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sunday, December 16th – Faith Formation students will lead the 10:30 a.m. worship service

Saturday, December 22nd – regular 5:30 p.m. worship service

Sunday, December 23rd – one worship service at 9:30 a.m.
(NO Sunday school)

Monday, December 24th – Christmas Eve worship services at 4:00 p.m., 6:30 p.m., and 11:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 26th – NO evening activities

Tuesday, December 25th through Friday, December 28th – office closed

Saturday, December 29th – regular 5:30 p.m. worship service

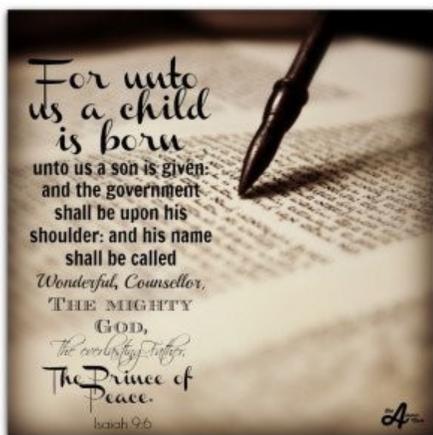
Sunday, December 30th – one worship service at 9:30 a.m.
(NO Sunday school)

Monday, December 31st – office closes at noon

Tuesday, January 1st – office closed

Wednesday, January 2nd – NO evening activities

Please mark your calendars accordingly . . . we hope to see you soon!



Pastor's Logos

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with us living perfectly, for this is a task impossible for us to accomplish. But, for us to love as we have been loved, to forgive as we have been forgiven and to care as we have been cared for, these actions are quite doable.

I heard a famous music performer say; "If you want to keep the negative out of your head, sing louder, longer and better." Fill our heads and hearts with Good News and make a joyful noise (which doesn't just mean music). Fill the air with shouts of thanks and praise, not with condemnation and hatred. Love and hope are much more powerful than anger and fear. They really are!

Be followers of Christ. Be the church in mission. Open wide the doors to let people in as much as to send us out! The world needs to hear the Good News. The world needs to know what we believe, and we too need to hear this as often as possible to remind us of God's love, Jesus coming into the world to us and God's love shared in the world through us! Amen!

Pastor Paul

The Second Mile Do We Ask too Often?

Well, let's think about this!

God has instructed us through the Bible, especially through Jesus' teachings, to minister to the needs of others: to be friends; to help where needed; to share the Gospel (Good News); to care for His creation and all that is in it; to care for the sick and those in prison. What is in this world (money, property etc.) that we have access to does not belong to us . . . it is on loan and we are to be good stewards (managers) and manage our time, our talents and our money in a way that glorifies God. God, we praise and thank you for trusting us and asking us to be your servants!

Each month St. Paul's makes you aware of ministries that we, as members of St. Paul's, are carrying out or supporting for God! Some of these will touch your heart more deeply and you will be nudged to help with an extra giving after the service through the Second Mile Offering. Not all will impact your heart! Participation in these offerings is **not** a requirement, it is an opportunity through your giving to see that work is accomplished in these areas especially ones that are special to you.

Many of these ministries are included in our annual proposed budget, but usually they are not fully funded. So, when there is a project that needs to be accomplished, we will ask for additional help if funds are needed. Sometimes a catastrophe strikes and we as individuals cannot help

physically, but there are trusted agencies that can accomplish the work for us such as Lutheran Disaster Fund and Lutheran World Relief.

The Lutheran Disaster Fund helps with catastrophes in the United States such as the wildfires in California, and flooding and hurricane relief in the United States and other international catastrophes. Lutheran World Relief supports teams and agencies ONLY in third world countries, not the United States.

There have been some questions about why we ask for money to help these causes when we are having difficulty raising funds to support St. Paul's operating budget. Hopefully these thoughts will help you in understanding why our church has a Second Mile Offering opportunity once or twice a month.

To better understand St. Paul's ministries, budget, expenditures and financial situation, we encourage you to read the Council minutes and committee reports and detailed financial reports that are posted monthly on the bulletin board between the sanctuary and the church office. A copy is posted and there are copies made for you to take and read at home. We encourage you to be actively involved.

God bless you for the time and talent that you give to carry out the programs and ministries of St. Paul's and for your financial support.

Meet Doug Rothgeb St. Paul's Faithful Servant

"Worship is Over, Let the Service Begin!"

BY KAREN HANSEN

Some people's lives are slow, easy and predictable. Some people's lives follow paths that twist and turn, and you never know what will be around the next corner. To know Doug Rothgeb, you have to hang on tight and follow his story. It's not really a wild ride, but one of growth and change and service with lots of doors which opened and closed behind him on a journey that eventually brought him to St. Paul's of Millard.

Doug was born to an Air Force family in Goose Bay Newfoundland, Canada. Shortly after Doug's birth, his father was transferred to Offutt Air Force Base in Omaha, and the family settled in nearby Murray, NE. His parents were both believers in Christ, but not active church members. Doug would walk across the street to a Christian Church. So at 10 years old, he started to attend on his own. His mother soon caught on, and Doug was baptized at 13. In junior high he started a youth group with five or six other kids and an awesome pastor. Doug became interested in the Mormon Church as an adolescent and studied their teachings for a while. At Southeast Community College in Beatrice, while majoring in Broadcast Journalism, he went to a Baptist church with a roommate.

In 1995 Doug became the man-

ager of a record store at the Oak View Mall where he met his wife, Kim. Doug had hired Kim's best friend. The friend and Doug double dated with Kim and another man; but it was Doug and Kim who became a couple after that New Year's Eve, and they were engaged on Valentine's Day. Kim had a 2 year old son from a previous relationship, and a new family was formed. Kim was an architectural engineer who, at the time, was designing cooling towers. Her career added to the interesting pathways. In March, Kim was hired in Kansas City, and having no real career in Omaha, Doug was able to follow. Kim was then hired away to Denver. They lived there for five years while Kim was designing phone lines for Qwest (US West). During these times, Doug worked as an Export Cargo Manager for American President Lines. While in Denver, they saw an ad for house parents at Boys' Town. They accepted the position as family teachers and became acquainted with the Catholic Church due to Boys' Town's affiliation. Their stint as house parents gave the Rothgeb's little time off or time for their own lives, so they looked for "normal jobs". Kim became an education program coordinator for UNMC in the field of biomedical research. Doug is with Lozier Corporation, located by the airport. He is the logistics



Doug and Kim Rothgeb

coordinator, responsible for getting the commercial shelving product out to the customer.

During this time, Kim and Doug, now having two sons, Jesse and Matthew, became active in the Boy Scout program. Doug was a Scoutmaster for a troop at the Little Sioux Camp when a tornado took the lives of four campers attending the National Youth Leadership training event. Doug wonders if he was brought back to Nebraska to help in dealing with that tragedy. Their scouting ties remain strong. Kim is a "religious knot" teacher, and Doug is active with the National Youth Leadership Training. Doug also spends some of his time in theater, having been interested

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Meet Doug Rothgeb

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since sixth grade. He is president of the board of the Loft Community Theatre in Manley, NE where he recently finished a role in the musical "Guys on Ice". He participates in a couple shows a year around the Metro and is the Artistic Director of Big Canvas, a family friendly Improv comedy group that performs and teaches the skills of Improvisation.

As for the Rothgeb's church life, Kim is a lifelong Lutheran. They were active in the Lutheran church in Kansas City and Denver and have been "Lutherans together ever since." At 33, while living in Denver, Doug suffered a heart attack. Once out of the hospital, he became immersed in the message of Ephesians, the study of the Church as the Body of Christ and living a life of discipleship. Upon returning to Omaha, the family attended St. Thomas Lutheran church and worked with youth and Sunday School. Their scouting involvement brought them to St. Paul's of Millard several years ago where they are now part of our church family. Doug realized after Pastor Sarah left that Pastor Paul could

A Day Without ~~COMPLAINING~~

BY PASTOR PAUL COEN

At the beginning of December, have one day that you don't complain. Sounds easy, doesn't it? I don't believe it will be as easy as we think. Practice it in 3 - or 4-hour bites, then you can move on to even more ambitious efforts. One suggestion is that every time you do complain, put a dollar in the complaint jar. I might just try that, I may get that trip to Ireland after all.

This doesn't mean there is nothing to complain about. But, it is an effort to minimize the damage that our negative

thoughts and words can have. This is something we can control. Give it a try, you just might like how it feels!

Go 24 hours
without
complaining.
(Not even once.)
Then watch how
your life starts
changing!

probably use some help, so he asked if he could be a lay minister volunteer. Some of his duties are assisting with worship and bringing the message on occasional Wednesday nights. Doug says he learns so much by watching Pastor Paul. He hopes to become a Parish Ministry Assistant after the New Year with a possible ordination down the road.

When asked about his vision for St. Paul's, Doug emphasized the outreach programs. "Jesus didn't preach in a church, so why should we?" He believes we shouldn't limit our worship and teaching to just inside the church wall. He is hopeful that our outreach programs, as well as the St. Paul's based scouting programs, will help to bring more kids into the church. Doug says one of his favorite parts of worship at St.

Paul's is the blessing: "Worship is over, let the service begin!" So, have you been able to keep up with Doug and the many twists and turns that brought him to St. Paul's? What an interesting ride! Now Doug is part of our faith journey at St. Paul's, serving as a lay ministry volunteer. Welcome aboard, Doug! Thank you for sharing your life and your service.



Chrismons Decorate the Tree

Chrismons decorate the tree in the chancel of St. Paul's sanctuary each year. The name "Chrismons" is a combination of Christ and monogram which means symbol. The name was created by Frances Kipps Spencer of Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, Virginia. The tradition of decorating the church tree using Chrismons has been adopted by many churches.

Chrismons are colored white and gold. White is the liturgical

color for the season of Christmas denoting Christ's purity and perfection. Gold is the color of royalty, majesty and glory. Ours are made of Styrofoam enhanced with gold beads, ribbons and sequins, and were made by St. Paul's members several years ago.

There are many Christian symbols used to create the Chrismons. If you look at our tree you will see several different forms of crosses. The Irish or Celtic cross is familiar because

that is the cross on the stand by the altar. The circle on the cross symbolizes eternity. The cross itself symbolizes the belief of Christians that Christ died for everyone. Another type of cross is the Triumphant Cross, a circle that represents the world with a cross on top of it signifying Jesus is triumphant over everything we face in the world. A Latin cross has a base of three steps representing faith, hope, and love. An Anchor cross re-

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Chrismons Decorate the Tree

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7



minds us that Jesus is the anchor of our faith.

A fish is an ancient symbol representing Christ and reminding us that several of the disciples were fishermen and called to be fishers of men. Also, the Greek word for fish is *ichthys*. Its Greek letters stand for Jesus, Christ, God, Son and Savior.

A Chi-Rho symbol looks like a "P" with an "X" on it. These are the first two letters of the Greek word 'Christos.'

The Greek letters Alpha and



Omega are used on several of our church paraments symbolizing that Jesus is the beginning and end of everything. Why Alpha and Omega? They are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet.

Stars of different designs are used to make Chrismons. The five-pointed star signifies the five wounds of Christ on the cross. The Nativity star symbolizes Epiphany and the Wisemen as well as the star of Bethlehem. The eight-pointed star represents baptism and regeneration. The star of David reminds us that Jesus, a Jew, was a descendant of King David.



Other familiar symbols are: a trefoil which represents the Trinity and is composed of three equal interlocking circles; a crown represents Jesus the King of heaven and earth; a heart represents God's love; a butterfly indicates transformation and immortality of the soul; a lamb because Jesus is called "the Lamb of God"; a manger; an angel; a chalice represents the Eucharist; a shell represents baptism; the descending

dove represents peace and the Holy Spirit descending at baptism; and a lamp or candle signifies Christ is the light of the world.



The final two most commonly used symbols are crossed keys and praying hands. The keys remind us that Jesus told Peter that "I will give you keys to heaven" and the expectation is that people will tell others about heaven and Jesus. The hands remind us to pray often to God.

Hopefully this information will give you a better understanding of what our Christmas Tree is telling us! Look closely and you may discover other symbols of our faith.





The Crossroads Connection Ministry fills stockings at Christmas time for their prison worshippers with items they use every day such as bar soap, toothpaste, shavers, shaving cream hand lotion, deodorant, men's white work socks (all sizes), winter gloves & mittens.

St. Paul's has committed to fulfilling **50 pairs of NEW White Men's Work socks** to help with this project. Can you help by bringing new socks to the church office on or before **December 13th**. Thank you for your generosity and giving during this season.

COMMITMENT 2019

If you did not turn in your pledge card during worship on Commitment weekend, there is still time to turn it into the church office. As of November 21st, we have received 63 pledges totaling \$272,405.



Membership Directory Update

The church maintains a database of information called ShelbyNext. Through the database, the church can share information with you and send you information through emails and text messages. **We also have the ability to maintain**

an electronic membership directory. Every member of the church will have access to this on-line directory so you can contact another member or look up a picture of someone you see, but cannot remember their name! A printed copy of the directory will be available in the church office.

FAQs:

1. What information will I be able to see about other people I look up in the directory?
 - Names and pictures (if the church has one)
 - Addresses
 - Home phone numbers
 - Cell phone numbers (if provided)
 - E-mail addresses
 - Other members in their family
2. Will other people be able to see my financial giving/pledges, etc. on my record?
NO, absolutely not, that area is restricted.
3. What additional information will be available for me to view on my record?
Eventually you will be able to see more information about your personal account and print off a copy of your giving for tax purposes.
4. How can I help the church directory be accurate with my information?
 - a) Provide us with the information for question #1 via one of the following methods:
 - Use the blue slip in each week's bulletin
 - Use the church website at <http://www.splcomaha.org/member-info-submission-form>
 - call the church office or
 - bring the information to the church office
 - b) Let us know if you no longer have a landline (home phone)
 - c) Provide us with a current digital picture of yourself and/or your family

Lutheran World Relief Kits Shipped



The quilts, layettes, school kits, health kits and sewing kits are all on their way!! May God go with them! Thank you for the many ways you all contributed to putting them together. **A very special thank you** to those who helped with the loading and final transportation to the Brown Transfer Company site. Ginny Janis, Arno and Betty Neben, Tom



Wilson, Phil Hough, Jay Schroeder, Doug Renken, Neal and Sharyn Willms, Sid and Jim Rames, Erin Rodgers and Chris

Berger loaded and/or drove them to Brown Transfer. What a wonderful wrap-up to a year of gathering, sewing, assembling and packing! **On behalf of Lutheran World Relief, thank you St. Paul's of Millard.** Your Women of the ELCA, partners in the service of our Lord.



St. Paul's Memory Tree

The Memory Tree was started over 25 years ago by Love Circle and has nearly 300 ornaments in memory of St. Paul's loved ones. The tree will be on display beginning **December 2nd**. Each ornament on this tree was placed there by a member of our congregation in memory of a loved one who has died. We welcome new ornaments each year. Each ornament is registered and tagged before going on the tree, so please see someone from Love Circle to assist you. We will accept ornaments until **December 23rd**. Contact Ina Averman @ 402-778-9304 or JoAnn Thompson @ 402-991-0207 with any questions.

Women of the **ELCA** 



The Tuesday Morning Bible Study Group and some members of Grace Circle went on a Field Trip on October 2nd to the Cloisters on the Platte. This was a very spiritual, 2,500-foot long walking tour comprised of 14 sculpture stations that represent Christ's trial through his burial. Lunch at Round the Bend Steakhouse preceded the tour.

First St. Paul's Community Meal set for January 26

We begin our Outreach Community Meals on **Saturday, January 26, 2018** in the Family Life Center, and we will be providing monthly meals thereafter.

We need your help to make this program a success. Please volunteer to help with food preparation, serving and clean-up (much like the meals we served at First Baptist).

We also plan to contact area businesses, such as Trader Joes, Panera Bread, Rotella's Bakery,

and area grocers to provide a mini fresh-food pantry on the day of the meal.

It was also suggested that various church ministries and community services set up tables, on the periphery of the room, to give folks information on services available to them throughout the city.

Keep these dates available to help with one or all of the meals: **January 26, February 23, March 30, April 27, May 18, June 29, July 27, August 24, September 28, Oc-**

tober 26, November 23 and December 28.

If you'd like to join this committee, please contact Megan Moslander at mmoslander@splcomaha.org.

THIS IS HOW WE SAY 'YES'
TO JESUS: WE DISCERN HIS
WILL AND WE DO IT.

Faith Formation

BY EMILY DALEN



December GIFT

Join us for GIFT on **Sunday, December 2 at 9:30 am in the Family Life Center!** Prepare your heart and mind for the season of Advent! What is GIFT you may ask? GIFT stands for Growing in Faith Together and is our new, monthly cross+generational gathering where we come together to learn about each other, hear God's Word, participate in activities, and share stories of how God works in our lives. All generations are together with the cross at the center. YOU are invited! Give it a try. Bring a friend. The photos on this page are from our November GIFT cross+generation gathering.



Faith Formation CONTINUED



Come to the Manger
Sunday, December 16
10:30 am.

Worship will be led by people of all ages and will feature special music by preschool and elementary students as well as a collaborative song with the Choir for Christ.

Faith Formation Ministries will NOT be held on the following days:

- Sunday, December 23
- Wednesday, December 26
- Sunday, December 30
- Wednesday, January 2

Sunday School WILL be held on **Sunday, January 6**

Calling all Confirmation Students

Don't miss the opportunity to attend the Nebraska Synod's Middle School Gathering! MSG will be held at First Lutheran Church in Kearney from **10 am on January 19th until 2 pm on January 20th**. Please let Emily know if your child will attend. A check for \$55 will hold your spot. Space is limited! Turn in your check soon! The cost increases after **December 15th**.



Join us for GIFT
 December 2 at 9:30am

Join us for GIFT (Growing In Faith Together) on Sunday, December 2 at 9:30am in the Family Life Center. We will learn about, and prepare for, Advent.

Check out the Book Fair!
 In the commons, now through December 9th.

Beaming Book Fairs

Shop books to help kids thrive emotionally, socially, and spiritually. All books are sold at a special discount!




Advent Devotions

Are you looking for Advent devotions this season? Be sure to stop by the table in the **Commons** and **pick up a resource**. **The staff have** selected a few of their favorites. These devotions are also linked on our Faith at Home page on the website. www.splcomaha.org/faithathome

ON EARTH PEACE.

GOOD NEWS

HOPE IS BORN



Faith Formation CONTINUED

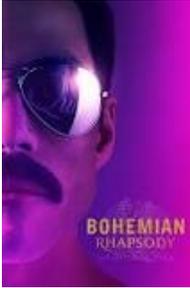
November 14 Night of Service

All kids involved in Faith Formation Ministries participated in projects to help those in need. Cross and Heart Elementary Kids made 36 mini loaves of banana bread from scratch and made care packages for our young adults. Confirmation and SPIRIT youth shopped for a family of 8. We partnered with Heartland Family Service for this project.



Emily Dalen is Director of Faith Formation. Contact Emily at edalen@splcomaha.org

Pastor Paul's Movie, Media & Book Reviews



"Bohemian Rhapsody" currently in the theaters and rated PG-13. The critics panned it, maybe they didn't see it, or grow up listening to the music of Queen and Freddy Mercury. I did both and I was moved to tears in the final "Live Aid Concert" scene. I thought A Star is Born had good music, but this was incredible. What made it so was the back story behind the words of the songs. You know how you get a tune in your head and try to get it out? I have the song "Love of My Life" popping in and out on a regular basis. This makes me happy, not irritated. This movie is worth watching and listening too. After you experience it, we should talk!

★★★★★



"Sabrina, The Teenage Witch" on Netflix and rated MA for mature audiences. Yes, you are reading this right. I have actually watched it and it is quite fascinating, but not for everyone. This version is a dark, flip side of Christianity and clearly for mature watching. There is one episode I particularly found interesting. Sabrina was on trial because she refuses to give over to the church of Satan (apparently this is a witch thing). She refuses and a trial is held. She wins in the devil court because she was baptized (just so you know, this did not go down well in the underworld). There are all sorts of strange parallels with Christianity . . . not the same, but absolutely polar. I would not recommend this series unless you are mature in faith and find the struggle between good and evil portrayed from the other side. C.S. Lewis does this in "The Screwtape Letters". If you watch any of it, let's talk. ★★



"Overlord" rated R and currently in the theaters. J.J. Abrams is the executive producer of this D-Day meets Nazi zombies. Yes, you heard me, Nazi zombies. Bear with me here, this is not as dumb of a film as you might think. However, the violence is quite visceral. A D-Day beach invasion is preceded by an airborne landing that has particular objectives. Now we get to the stranger part. The Nazis, who have been calling themselves supermen, are actually trying to make that come true. A mad scientist, a really evil Nazi officer and a group of soldiers from the 101st come to grips. Good versus evil is very much the theme as well as one of the men who fights the Nazis, is an African American, who even his own country don't treat as equals. This is not a top-drawer movie, but it can be fun in a graphic sort of way and does have a plot line and dialog that's not bad. If you watch this film, let's talk. ★★ 1/2



Merry Christmas

Council Highlights

HUMBLY SUBMITTED THIS MONTH BY DON ANDERSON

For this month's report we are going to focus on some very specific areas that should be of interest to all members and believers at St. Paul's.

After the Council meeting was called to order and attendance taken, I offered a devotional based on Deuteronomy 31:6, Proverbs 3:5-6 and 1 Thessalonians 5:18. The main point of the devotional is that fear holds us back, uncertainty makes us reanalyze everything and doubt clouds our minds. All of these together affect how we interact with GOD, clouds our faith and limits us from reaching our full potential. The Council walked through an exercise to rid ourselves of these things that are holding us back by giving all of these concerns to GOD.

Pastor Paul next walked us through his monthly report and shared with us all the success we had and the positive impacts our programs are having on many members within our church. Plans



were talked about to help feed the hungry in 2019 and how we, as followers of Christ, need to lift up the light of hope and thanksgiving in these tough financial times. To that end, he offered up plans to rollout a one word theme to help raise our spirits, and refocus our minds on all of the positive things happening in our church. One other item talked about was a suggestion for the council to read Rick Warren's book *The Purpose Driven Church*. This will make a good primer for a future meeting on mission and vision that is being formulated.

Our conversations quickly switched as Tom Wilson shared our current financial reports that were put together by Dennis Stieren. Positive things we discussed are how well the debt reduction plan is working and budgets for 2019 are looking good. We have been extremely fortunate to have Dennis on our team. He has already helped reduce many of our operational expenses in these tough times and is looking into a few more items. When you see Dennis, please thank him for his work and his passion to help make us better.

Unfortunately, our income continues to be a problem. We did not bring in enough to meet our needs, despite multiple cuts to our budget. We had to use our long-term funds to cover the debt again. We can not continue at this pace indefinitely and remain solvent. We really need all

church members to stay current on their monthly giving. In addition, we do not have to wait for our church to have a special event to invite our friends and neighbors to come join us at St. Paul's. That is our mission as a true follower of Jesus to save the lost lambs.

The last item I want to call out that is super exciting is that one of our own, Emily Dalen, recently was asked to write a chapter for a Faith Formation Council Report book which she has completed. This is a huge honor to be asked to do this. So please, when you see Emily, congratulate her on her recent success and accomplishment.

St. Paul's Council

Susie Stieren, *President*

Jared Collins, *Vice President*

Tom Wilson, *Treasurer*

Joel Christensen, *Secretary*

Dan Abendroth

Don Anderson

Jeff Hohenstein

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Emily's chapter "Everything I Know About Ministry I Learned in the Kitchen" will be published in future issues of The Connection.*

From the St. Paul's Library

BY SALLY RUNGE

The Library Team would like to invite you to stop into the library located next to the office. The library offers a wide range of books, audio books, videos and CD's to be checked out.

There are books for all ages, large print books, biographies, nonfiction, fiction, travel books, devotionals, faith journey books, marriage and family books and even a few cookbooks just to name a few. Everything is color coded to help with your search.

There is a section called **Read to Me books** which are lovely pic-



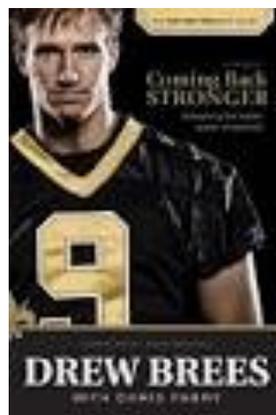
ture books. One such book is ***Give Thanks to the Lord***. You will join a joyous celebration in the heartwarming story that references Psalm 92 in tender rhyme from award winning author Karma Wilson .

In the **Middle grade and Teen section**, readers will enjoy Gordon Korman's ***Ungifted***. The word gifted has never been applied to a kid like Donovan Curtis. It's usually more like "Don't try this at home". So, when the trouble maker pulls a major prank at his middle school, he thinks he's finally gone too far. But, thanks to



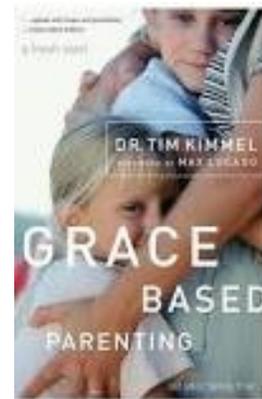
a major mix-up by one of the administrators, instead of getting in trouble, Donovan is sent to the Academy of Scholastic Distinction (ASD), a special program for gifted and talented students. Donovan shows that his gifts might be exactly what the ASD students never knew they needed.

Football fans won't want to miss the New York Times best seller, ***Coming Back Stronger*** by Drew Brees found in the **Biography section**. After Hurricane Katrina ravaged the Gulf Coast in 2005, the residents of New Orleans desperately needed something to believe in. And after being told he would never play football again due to a horrific shoulder injury, quarter-



back Drew Brees needed a team that believed he could still play and win. What happened next is nothing short of providential.

From the **Marriage and Family section** comes Dr. Tim Kimmel's book ***Grace Based Parenting***. Today's leading Christian parenting models are wrong—they don't work. What families need is a great example, not more heavy-handed methods. Dr. Kimmel offers a revolutionary concept



that focuses on the model and guidance provided by God the Father—the ultimate child and family expert. This is not another manual full of impossible standards. Rather, it is a new map for learning to see ourselves and our children through God's limitless tenderness to raise our kids the way God raises us. This thoughtful, profound, and compassionate book presents a truly liberating way to nurture a healthy family. As we embrace the grace He offers, we begin to give it . . . creating a sound foundation for growing morally strong and spiritually motivated children.

In Memoriam



Morgan (Baumeister), Joanne L. was born in Omaha on December 17, 1936. Her father, Oscar T. Bowles, was a prominent and respected architect in Omaha in the 1930s. Joanne inherited his artistic eye and his passion for design, so, inspired by her father, she studied architectural engineering. Throughout her life, she had multiple opportunities to put her architectural knowledge to use. She designed and built her house at 327 South 68th Street in 1964. She helped design Burke High School in 1967. When she married Bruce Morgan in 1994, the pair worked together to design and build an addition to the house and to remodel a beloved cabin in Red Feather Lakes, Colorado. Joanne's interest in design was not limited to structure but continued to the interior. She could make any space beautiful and she took great delight in doing so.



Joanne understood the value and importance of family. Following the birth of her son, Todd, Joanne decided to pursue a career that would allow her to spend as much time with him as possible. She earned a master's degree in Education and was employed by Omaha Public Schools. A teaching schedule enabled her to be more present and active with her family which grew in 1976 when she married Clayton Baumeister. Jo-

anne welcomed his children, Lori and Kevin and thoroughly enjoyed being a step-parent. Clayton passed away in 1993 and Joanne met and married Bruce Morgan in 1994. He brought two more children to the marriage, Kurtis and Jacquelyn, and again, Joanne embraced the role of step-parent.

She loved Colorado—the mountains, the lakes, the peace and serenity. After her retirement from OPS in 1996, the cabin in Colorado became a second home, and Joanne and Bruce spent as much time there as possible, inviting friends and family to vacation with them often. She loved horses, especially her two Appaloosa mares, Bit and Playgirl. For Joanne, true happiness was found in the mountains, and she wanted to share that happiness with as many people as possible—especially her grandchildren.

Joanne also loved God, her dogs, Coca-Cola, silk flowers, placemats, and cake. She enjoyed shopping, reading, decorating, playing bridge, country line dancing and chatting with friends. Most of all, Joanne loved her family.

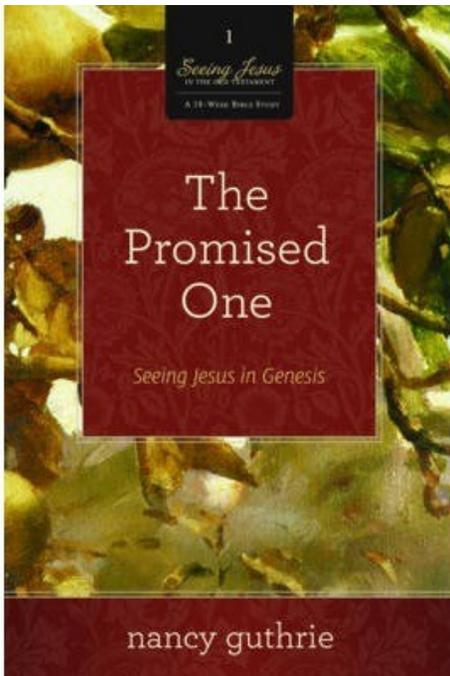
She left behind her brother, John Bowles (Faye); her husband, Bruce Morgan; her children Todd Whitham (Patricia), Lori Baumeister, Kevin Baumeister (Rebecca), Kurtis Morgan, and Jacquelyn Morgan; her grandchildren Zachary Whitham, Sarah Whitham, Michaela Baumeister, Jeffrey Baumeister, Jacob Baumeister, and Kaitlin Baumeister; her dog Ava; and her grand-dogs Savannah, Aspen and Wrigley. She will be missed terribly.

On October 31, 2018, she was met in Heaven by her parents, Oscar and Josephine Bowles; her late husband Clayton Baumeister; and several of her faithful companions—Peaches, Pitter-Pat, Cindy, Daisy, Penny, Mindy, Noobie, Sparky and Dinky.

A Celebration of Life service was held on November 5th at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Memorials are suggested to the Nebraska Humane Society or the Wag N Train Terrier Rescue.



The Promised One All-Church Adult Bible Study, Part Two, Resumes January 10th



St Paul's is offering the second five weeks of the study *The Promised One* by Nancy Guthrie. The study will begin **January 10, 2019** and will be held from **6:30-8:15 pm**.

The Promised One provides a refreshing look at the book of Genesis, guiding the participants in discovering how its stories, symbols, people, and promises point to Christ.

The next 5-week session begins with Genesis 12 and includes discussions about Abraham, Abraham and Isaac, Jacob, Joseph and The Sons of Jacob.

We are welcoming new participants to join us! New participants need to complete a registration form located at the informational table in the commons and you may pre-register to purchase a

study guide book for \$8.00. Books are recommended, but not required.

If you participated in the first session, you are already signed up for session two and do not need to complete a registration.

We were so excited that over sixty men and women signed up for the first session of the All-Church Bible Study! Please join us for the next 5-week session to share in fellowship and grow in your faith!

Contact person:

Colleen Christensen
email: crchrist51@gmail.com
phone: 402-339-7722

Dates of Study: January 10
January 17
January 24
January 31
February 7

Time: 6:30 – 8:15 pm

**Red Cross
Blood Mobile
January 13, 2019
7 am to Noon**

In this season of giving, one more very special gift, that will cost you nothing, but will be a precious gift to one, two or three lives, is your gift of a blood donation.

Please consider this precious gift and call for an appointment. Your choice of schedule times is better the sooner you call.

Please contact Jennifer Collins at 402-740-9525.

**GIVE
LOVE
BLOOD**

The St. Paul's

CONNECTION

December 2018

Volume 1, Issue 12

*The St. Paul's Connection
is a publication of*

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church
13271 Millard Avenue
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402-895-3366

Publication deadline is the 21st of the month. Articles/photos/suggestions may be submitted to Lynda Nicholson at Sower@splcomaha.org

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St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Calendar of Events

December, 2018



*Sharing Christ's message to
transform all generations*

ST. PAUL'S EVENTS

Church Council Meeting	6:30 p.m. Mon.	10
Church Staff Meetings	9:30 a.m. Tue.	4, 11, 18
Facility Team Meeting	6:30 p.m. Tue.	4
Faith Bible Study	6:30 p.m. Thu.	20
Finance Team Meeting	6:30 p.m. Thur.	6
Library in the Commons	8:00 a.m. Sun.	9
Hope Circle	1:00 p.m. Thur.	20
Library Team Meeting	9:30 a.m. Wed.	5, 12, 19
Love Circle	11:30 a.m. Wed.	19
Memorial Committee Meeting	1:30 p.m. Mon.	17

MEMBER CARE

Cards in the Commons	12:30 p.m. Tue.	11
Exercise Class	8:15 a.m. Mon.	3, 10, 17
	8:15 a.m. Fri.	7, 14, 21, 28
Health Ministry Team Meeting	6:30 p.m. Mon.	3
Home Communion at Millard Manor	11:00 a.m. Thu.	6
Tai Chi	9:00 a.m. Tue.	4, 11, 18
	9:00 a.m. Thu.	6, 13, 20

EDUCATION SCHEDULE

2 Yr. old & Parent Class	9:30 a.m. Sun.	9
Confirmation Class	7:00 p.m. Wed.	5, 12, 19
Cross & Heart Kids	7:00 p.m. Wed.	5, 12, 19
G.I.F.T.	9:30 a.m. Sun	2
Spirit	7:00 p.m. Wed.	5, 12, 19
Tuesday Morning Bible Study	11:00 a.m. Tue.	4, 11, 18
Thursday Morning Bible Study	10:00 a.m. Thu.	6, 13, 20
Thursday Morning Bible Study	6:30 a.m. Thu.	6, 13, 20
Wednesday Morning Book Club	10:00 a.m. Wed.	12

MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES

Choir for Christ Rehearsal	7:00 p.m. Wed.	5, 12, 19
Worship Team Rehearsal	4:30 p.m. Sat.	1, 8, 15, 22, 29
Worship Team Rehearsal	8:00 p.m. Wed.	5, 12, 19

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

"Church Chat" Deadline	9:00 a.m. Mon.	3, 10, 17
"Connection" Deadline	12:00 p.m. Mon.	17

WORSHIP SERVICES

Wednesday Worship Service	6:30 p.m. Wed.	5, 12, 19
Saturday Evening Worship Service	5:30 p.m. Sat.	1, 8, 15, 22, 29
Sunday Worship Service	8:30 a.m. Sun	2, 9, 16
	9:30 a.m. Sun.	23, 30
	10:30 a.m. Sun.	2, 9, 16
	9:30 a.m. Sun.	23, 30

Dates to Remember

G.I.F.T.—Dec. 2

**Christmas Eve Services:
4:00 p.m., 6:30 p.m. 11:00 p.m.**

Church Office Closed—Dec. 25-28

**Saturday Worship Services
5:30 p.m. on December 22 & 29**

**Sunday Worship Services
9:30 a.m. on December 23 & 30**

Worship Servants for December, 2018

December 1—5:30 p.m.

Acolytes—Sean Simmons,
Derek Morrison
Communion—Carolyn Badtke,
Bev Steinbaugh, Marie Witthoft
Greeter—Bev Steinbaugh
Prayers-Valerie Young
Reader-Carolyn Badtke
Video—Madison Querry
Audio—Jim Rames
Usher—Bill Jaquith, Dennis Verdick

December 2—8:30 a.m.

Acolytes—Sofia Schommer
Canter—John Schumacher
Communion—Doug Rothgeb, Betty Neben,
Maia Young, Chelsey Schommer
Greeter—Patrick Runge, Sally Runge
Valerie Young
Hospitality-Mary Holland
Prayers-Volunteer Needed
Reader-Fran Witt
Video—Linda Kuehl
Audio—Jim Kuehl
Usher—Norm Bensinger, John Kuehl
Bill Averman

December 2—10:30 a.m.

Acolytes—Tori Karloff, Matthew Peek
Communion—Doug Rothgeb, Erica Peek,
Cory & Kathy Juma, Jan Wilson,
Harvey & Carol Applegate, Toni Flermoen
Greeter—Chris & Teri Cain,
Jim & Mary Jo Larson
Hospitality-Ted & Donna Luedke
Prayers-Steve & Christine Karloff
Reader-Jan Wilson
Video—Volunteer Needed
Audio—Cheryl Franko
Usher—Jay Schroeder, Gary McDonald,
Ted & Donna Luedke

December 8—5:30 p.m.

Acolytes—Derek Morrison
Greeter—Judy Petersen
Prayers-Volunteer Needed
Reader-Marie Witthoft
Video—Madison Querry
Audio—Jason Swope
Usher—Bill Jaquith, Gary Norenberg

December 9—8:30 a.m.

Acolytes—Andi Anneberg
Cantor April Taggs
Greeter—Harold Cowan, Evan Holly
Hospitality—Steve & Nancy Steil
Prayers-April Taggs
Reader-Doug Rothgeb
Video—Renate Witt
Audio—John Snowdon
Usher—John Kuehl, Norm Bensinger
Bill Averman

December 9—10:30 a.m.

Acolytes—Ethan Wilson
Greeter—Jerry & Naomi Warner,
Alex & Tami Williams
Hospitality-Carol & Harvey Applegate
Prayers-Volunteer Needed
Reader-Barb Hough
Video—Valerie Young
Audio—Doug Rothgeb
Usher—Jeff Hohenstein, Cory Juma,
John Keim, John Bourne

December 15—5:30 p.m.

Acolytes—Sean Simmons,
Matthew Peek
Communion—Erica Peek,
Kristi McKamy, Vicky Marquardt
Greeter—Harvey & Carol Applegate
Prayers-Volunteer Needed
Reader-Vicky Marquardt
Video—Volunteer Needed
Audio—Bill Koile
Usher—Gary Norenberg, Dave Smith

December 16—8:30 a.m.

Acolytes—Madison Querry
Cantor—Patrick Runge
Communion—Marvin & Corinne Wastell,
Maia Young, Doug Rothgeb
Greeter—Gary & Denise Winter
Hospitality—Marvin & Corinne Wastell
Prayers-Valerie Young
Reader-Donna Snowdon
Video—Volunteer Needed
Audio—John Snowdon
Usher—John Kuehl, Norm Bensinger
Bill Averman

December 16—10:30 a.m.

Acolytes—Ethan Wilson, Andi Anneberg
Communion—Ted & Donna Luedke,
Barb Hough, Doug Rothgeb, Stacy Kreun
Jay & Sue Schroeder, Jane Coen,
Greeter—S. S. Students
Hospitality-Phil & Barb Hough
Prayers-S. S. Students
Reader-S. S. Students
Video—Volunteer Needed
Audio—Arno Neben
Usher—John Keim, Scott Custard,
Gary McDonald, Brock Flowers

December 22—5:30 p.m.

Acolytes—Sean Simmons
Greeter—Bev Steinbaugh
Prayers-Volunteer Needed
Reader-Tyler Pierson
Video—Jeanette Swope
Audio—Jason Swope
Usher—Dave Smith, Dennis Verdick

December 23—9:30 a.m.

Acolytes—Sofia Schommer
Greeter—Cal & Anna Mae Wamre,
Ina Averman
Hospitality-Toni Flermoen
Prayers—Volunteer Needed
Reader-Doug Rothgeb
Video—Volunteer Needed
Audio—Bill Koile
Usher—Norm Bensinger, John Kuehl,
Gary McDonald, Brock Flowers

December 29—5:30 p.m.

Acolytes—Volunteer Needed
Greeter—Sid Rames
Prayers-Volunteer Needed
Reader-Marie Witthoft
Video—Tammy Baumann
Audio—Willie Baumann
Usher—Dennis Verdick, Dave Smith

December 30—9:30 a.m.

Acolytes—Madison Querry
Greeter—Sharla Fitzgerald
Tim & Jennifer Collins
Hospitality-Toni Flermoen
Prayers—Volunteer Needed
Reader-Donna Luedke
Video—Aaron Kreun
Audio—Bryan Kreun
Usher—Norm Bensinger, John Kuehl
Bill Averman, John Bourne, Alex Williams

If you are unable to serve on the date you are scheduled, please find your substitute and then notify the church office at 402-895-3366.