

Proclaim

The Wait

Waiting is hard. We humans are not patient creatures and more so today than ever. Think of the indignation experienced after being notified of a delay in shipping. the agony of a slow loading website, or the frustration of a packed queue at the DMV. We do not like to be kept waiting.

Why is that? Is it really that we think our time is that valuable? Are we so efficient that every minute is put to such good use that waiting 10 minutes severely diminishes production? Are we so important that all things must synchronize to our schedules? Many people think so, but most are unable do anything about it. Medieval royalty thought their time was so valuable that they had people who were in a constant state of waiting on their behalf. "Ladies-in-waiting" waited on royal woman so that they never had to wait themselves. How does that sound? For waiting to be your main purpose in life? Woof! As for me, I recognize that my time is not that important and yet waiting is still difficult. It reminds me of the hard reality of things. It reminds me that I am not the center of the universe. It reminds me that I am not in control. Every wait is a reminder of these stark facts, but some more pointedly than others. Waiting for test results and a diagnosis. Waiting for a deeply desired returned phone call. Waiting for a safe return. Waiting for words of forgiveness. Waiting for something, anything to bring hope, peace, love, and joy.

Waiting in these moments reminds us of our frailty, our dependence, our need, and it gives us time to think about our sorry predicament. So, we rush through life, expediting everything we can, paying to skip the lines, to speed up the shipping, trying to eliminate the insecurity and though-provoking silence of the wait. But we can't escape waiting, it is just a fact of life.

Now we have Advent. Advent is a season of waiting. Waiting for the arrival of the Christmas celebration *and* for that second coming of our King. It shouldn't be a surprise that our culture has minimized this season. We just celebrate Christmas for four weeks! No waiting necessary! And in that, we miss out on something beautiful; we miss out on God's gift in waiting as He promises in Isaiah 40:3, "They who *wait* for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint."

In our Advent waiting, we are confronted with reality, all the hard truths the world wishes to ignore, but along with those we are confronted with the reality of Jesus Christ. The One who *is* the center of the universe and *is* in control, who also *is* the One who waited for you throughout history and most powerfully in His three days in the tomb. The One who promises that our waiting is coming to an end, that He *is* returning to make all things new, to redeem all that we are and fill us with hope, peace, love, and joy for all time. In Advent Jesus proclaims that this is happening even right now. Our waiting is redeemed and turned into joyful expectation as we sing with the saints of all time and places, "O come, Thou Dayspring, from on high, and cheer us by Thy drawing nigh; Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel."

May Jesus bless your Advent wait.

Pastor Andrew

Jesus Came and Still Comes

It's difficult for me to write "in the season of things" when the season hasn't been experienced yet. So right now, I find myself sitting at my computer (pre-Thanksgiving) trying to figure out what to write for the December issue of the Proclaim. Christmas? I haven't even made it through the Thanksgiving holiday yet, although one of my daughters has safely arrived home and the second is soon to follow, I've watched a bit of football, eaten a few more sweets, and taken the time to cook a little more food. Is that what holidays are all about? They certainly may entail these things, but I search for a deeper meaning.



Reflecting upon the holidays soon to come, I am reminded of the many ways in which my Father has blessed me. He has heard my

praises and listened to my heartfelt pleadings. He has answered prayer, not always on my time, but in His time, in His way. I must admit that I do not always understand His timing and His answers, but I am solidly sure of the answer to this question, "Does God care about me?" You bet He does! Of that, I am certain. It takes only a glance at 1 John 3:1 to remind me, "See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; *and so we are.*" AND SO WE ARE! That is what I need to know.

Paging through the accounts in the Bible of desperate people seeking answers, I am reminded that we are common people who serve an uncommon God. Many of these people were hurting. Their situations were different, but their conditions were much the same. In fact, their conditions are very comparable to ours today. Trapped. Estranged. Rejected. Broken. Hurting. I am sure that we can identify.

I would assume Joseph had questions of God. Maybe he felt some of those emotions listed above. I would think Joseph did not envision his wife giving birth to the Savior of the world in a stable with animals. When that angel first came to speak to him, I wonder what he envisioned Christ's birth being like? Maybe Joseph had questions similar to these and maybe he didn't, but the important thing is that Joseph obeyed God, and God's Son was born into the world to save people just like us, more specifically...exactly us.

Why is the Bible filled with accounts of common everyday people who are in predicaments and have problems? Is it so we can look back with awe on what Jesus did? Maybe partially, but I think the bigger picture that should resonate with us is to show us not what Jesus did but what He continues doing. These aren't just Sunday school stories in the Bible. They aren't just tales for our amusement. These are historic moments where God met people where they were...amid their pain and suffering. And if God met people in their pain and suffering back in Biblical times, can He not do that same thing today? Can He not meet us where we are, no matter where that might be? He certainly can! That is exactly why He sent His Son to be born into this world as a baby to rescue us. His Son was familiar with pain and suffering. Jesus chose to meet people where they were. He chooses to meet us today in the middle of our muck.

"The God who spoke still speaks. The God who forgave still forgives. The God who came still comes. He comes into our world. He comes into *your* world. He comes to do what you can't. He comes to move the stones you can't budge." (He Still Moves Stones - Max Lucado)

~Gina Martens, Family Life Directory

Special Holiday Worship

"Beautiful Savior, King of Creation" Sundays in Advent 2022 – Epiphany of Our Lord 2023

Advent and Christmas focus our attention on the coming into the world of the one through whom the world was made. He comes to establish His eternal kingdom. Reflecting on themes from a number of creation Psalms, we will see Jesus is our "Beautiful Savior, King of Creation."

November 27 | 8 & 10:30 am | Psalm 96
December 4 | 8 & 10:30 am | Psalm 107:23–32
December 11 | 8 & 10:30 am | Psalm 147:7–18
December 18 | 8 & 10:30 am | Psalm 136
Christmas Eve, December 24 | 6 pm (Children's Program) and 9 pm (Candelight)
Christmas Day, December 25 | 9:30 am | Psalm 24
New Year's Eve, December 31 | 7 pm | Psalm 29

Epiphany of Our Lord, January 1, 2023 | 8 & 10:30 am | Psalm 19

"Bread of Life" Wednesdays in Advent

Bethlehem is a Hebrew word that means "house of bread." Ruth and Naomi find this to be true as they settle in the town of Bethlehem following the death of their husbands. There Boaz, Ruth's future husband and great-grandfather to King David, sees to it that Ruth and Naomi receive a portion of the grain harvest. In this series of services, we see how the town of Bethlehem ultimately cradles Jesus Christ, the very Bread of Life, sent to nourish God's people for this earthly life and satisfy their needs for all eternity. Worship November 30, December 7 and 14 at 10 am and 7 pm. A meal is served at 6 pm in the school gym, and evening services include a special children's message and will be preceded by an Advent/Christmas hymn sing.

Can't worship with us in person? Join us online at stpaulsconcordia.org.

Family Life Milestones

These past months have been busy with Milestone celebrations! So far this school year, we have celebrated with the 4 year olds as they received *My First Hymnal*, a resource that is beautifully crafted for young children as an introduction to worship. The 2nd graders received their *Faith Alive* bible which they use throughout their grade school years. We have also celebrated with the 6th graders as



they received a gift from Thrivent to help them in their stewardship plan learning what it means to use the blessings of time, talent, and treasures to glorify God. On November 13, we celebrated with the Kindergartners when they were gifted with a richly illustrated *Story Bible*. Kindergartners and their parents discovered how they might use this bible in their homes to learn about the

truths of the Lord and were able to tell bible stories with their families by using "prop boxes." We especially thank Ladies Aid #1 for their continued generous support of this milestone.

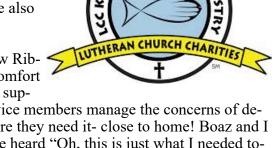


Tails from The Comfort Dogs

The holiday season approaches and Jessy and I are happy, happy (in our special Golden Retriever way) to be busy, busy, busy! We are also wagging our tails with joy for cooler temperatures and long walks.



In November, I was invited to attend a Yellow Ribbon event in Lake Ozark, along with Boaz Comfort Dog. This event provides resource access and sup-



port to help National Guard and Reserve service members manage the concerns of deployment. It connects them with support where they need it-close to home! Boaz and I got a lot of hugs and snuggles. Frequently, we heard "Oh, this is just what I needed to-day!". Our handlers asked how they could pray for the service members and were blessed to be able to listen to their concerns. I also was invited to a meeting of the Mighty Acorn Adventure Club in Shawnee, Kansas. They were excited to listen to our presentation about Comfort Dog ministry and we helped them earn a dog care badge.

I received two emergency calls to hospitals this month from medical staff who had met us before and knew the patients, families and medical staff needed us right away. My handlers and I were honored to come at the time when they needed us most.

Jessy and I enjoyed our regular nursing home, court, hospital visits and school counseling work in November but we were especially pleased to celebrate Jessy's 10th birthday on November 11th. She has served St. Paul's for 9 years and visited countless people in need of encouragement, comfort, and hope! We are so thankful for our handlers who share Jesus' love with others every day. Please continue praying that the Lord will use us to open hearts to His grace and mercy!





St. Paul's Lutheran School

In December, our students will be discussing generosity. We give back to God and care for others because everything we own is from God. The opportunity to share our blessings with others brings us, and those we help, joy. May we always be so giving and be generous, for Hebrews 13:2 says: "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." May you also be inspired to be generous both in the season of Advent and even all year long.



St. Paul's Lutheran School invites you to join us in prayer throughout the school year as Pastor Michael and Pastor Andrew on Mondays at 8 AM in the Parish Office to pray for a specific class, the school, and the world! You may also join us for our chapel service on Wednesdays at 8 AM when school is in session!

Thank you to everyone who supported our students by attending McTeacher Night and the library through our annual Book Fair. During the month of December, be sure to support St. Paul's by eating at the El Patron on Friday, December 3rd (percentage of sales goes to PTL), purchasing popcorn (November 16-30th, distributed on December 19th), and attending the annual Christkindlesmarkt at Saint Paul High School and purchasing Lebkuchen from the PTL Stand! Thank you for your continued support of St. Paul's Lutheran School!

What a joy and blessing to celebrate on Grandparents' Day! We listened to beautiful music, ate a delicious meal catered by Plowboys BBQ, and enjoyed meeting and visiting all of the grandparents.

Remember to mark your calendar for March 11th, 2023 for the 2023 Gifts of Grace Benefit Dinner and Auction! The event is always a good time and a great support to St. Paul's Lutheran School!

St. Paul's students have begun the annual tradition of preparing for the Children's Christmas Eve Service (December 24th at 6 PM). We also invite you to join us for our annual Christmas Concert on December 13th at 6:30 PM in the gym as we give glory to God for our musical talents. Throughout the Advent Season, be sure to join us at Wednesday Advent Services (7 PM) to listen to special music presented by our music classes!

During the month of November, thanks to generous Thrivent Members running Thrivent Action Teams, a team supported our athletics programs by running an educational event and a group continues the work to create the outdoor learning area for our younger learners. Thank you! If you are a Thrivent Member and are looking for a great place to send your Choice Dollars or a partner with your Thrivent Action Teams, please reach out to Mr. Poppe at 660-463-7654!

We praise God for all that He provides to our learners at St. Paul's Lutheran School and thank you for your continued prayers for our teachers, staff, and students!

May the Lord bless your Advent and Christmas seasons!



Lutheran Women in Mission

Concordia Zone LWML Spring Rally will be held April 22, 2023 at Immanuel Lutheran in Waverly. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m., and the theme will be "Our Help Comes from God." The program will explain the Lutheran Early Response Teams organization (LERT) of LCMS, and the ingathering will be a monetary donation for LERT.



Celebrate the Lord of the Nations

LWML National Convention June 22-25, 2023 Wisconsin Center — Milwaukee, Wisconsin



Convention Logo Explanation

The 2023 LWML Convention logo features a wooden cross, reminding us of the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus who takes away the sin of the world. Wrapped around and draped over the cross is a long banner with the flags of many countries. The cross supports the banner as Christ delivers life and salvation to all the children of man. The banner waves symbolizing our life by the Holy Spirit and the movement and proclamation of the Word of God into all nations.

Ladies Aid No. 1 will meet December 6, 2022, at 6 p.m. in the Parish Office. The officers will host a meal for members and their guests. They will also present a brief Christmas program. At the aid's November meeting, elections were held. Kathy Frerking was elected Secretary, and Cheryl Spiegelhalter will become the new Vice-President of Special Focus.

1912 Ladies Aid will not meet in December since they already enjoyed their holiday celebration last month.

December 7 Advent Meal

6 to 7 p.m., Grade School Gym

Hosted by Lutheran Good Shepherd Home and Lutheran Nursing Home Auxiliary.

Proceeds will be used to enhance the lives of the residents of the Home.

MENU

Sliced Ham

Mashed Potatoes

Gravv

Green Beans

Salad

Desserts



PRAYER GALENDAR

- 1 Thank God for the positive influence and encouragement of Melissa Schweigert at the International Office.
- Pray for clear communication between the translators and typesetter as the Khwedam Panoramic Bible goes to typesetting. (Botswana)
- 3 Pray for fruitful meetings this week between Gokana and Eleme translation teams. (Nigeria)
- Pray for wisdom, guidance, and good health for Jim Kaiser, Chris Pluger, and the Tsamakko translation team as they check the book of Hebrews over the next 2 weeks. (Ethiopia)
- **5** Pray God's blessings upon the Esala family. Pray their children finish the semester well. (US)
- Pray the Khwedam literacy workshops will be well attended, so many would be able to read their own language and read God's Word. (Botswana)
- **?** Pray for good checking sessions with the Tarok translation team as Chuck Tessaro begins to go through 2 Samuel. (Nigeria)
- Pray for participants at the Pike Center Exploratory Symposium as Lutheran Bible Translators share about experiences with the translator selection process. (US)
- Praise God for Tom and Mary Holman's long-standing ministry in Ghana, Nigeria, and the US. Pray for their transition to retirement in 2023.

- 10 Pray for good health for Ipili Translator Mandita Kunum. Pray for endurance through trials as he works on translating Genesis (Papua New Guinea)
- 11 Thank God for the commissioning service of Tiffany Smith today. Pray for the Lord's guidance, blessings, and protection over her so that she may be faithful in her ministry call. (Pre-field)
- 12 Pray God strengthens the bodies and minds of the Grulke family during their brief furlough in the US. (Botswana)
- Pray for linguistic and translation students at the Theological College of Northern Nigeria as they write first semester exams.
- Thank God for joy and passion of Paul Federwitz as he serves as Program Director over work in Ethiopia.
- Pray for Jon and Carol Shaneyfelt's ministry in creating technology solutions for remote language projects.
- Pray for Scripture Engagement Coordinator Rob Veith as he continues his PhD work.
- Pray for encouragement for the Kukele and Gokana translation teams as they hope to print editions of Esther and Genesis before Christmas. (Nigeria)
- Pray for our partner organization
 Aramaic Bible Translation.
 Pray the Lord equips Executive
 Director Rob Hilbert and Board
 Chair David Snyder to do His
 will.
- Praise God for the faithful service of Serena Derricks. Pray the Lord fills her with peace as she concludes her ministry service with Lutheran Bible Translators.

- Thank God for all Lutheran
 Bible Translators volunteers
 who give their time and talent in
 service to the Bible Translation
 movement.
- Pray for the Wagner family as Ruthie trains translators on the Kerewe Team. (Tanzania)
- Praise God for Dr. Berhanu
 Ofgaa's ministry as the Ethiopia
 Programs Director as he enters
 retirement.
- Praise God for the children of our faithful partners across the world. Pray the Lord continues to grow them to be strong in body and spirit.
- Praise God that the Komba translation team have worked through the chapters of Isaiah, so Komba speakers may read of the prophecies of Christ in their language. (Ghana)
- Praise God for the gift of salvation through Immanuel, Jesus Christ our Savior!
- Pray for Jonathan and Carrie Federwitz as they begin a US based assignment in training missionary pilots.
- Pray for the joy of the Lord to be with Alyssa Petty as serves the body of Christ. (US)
- Thank God for Kathy Knipmeyer's giftings in finance and stewardship. (US)
- Pray for peace and protection as Tiffany Smith departs today to work with the Datooga project. (Tanzania)
- Pray for Marshall Schultz as he serves as Chaplain for the International Linguistic Center in Dallas.
- Praise God for the service and enduring ministry of Dr. Mike Rodewald as he enters retirement.



- 1 Hannah Bingham Benjamin Kuecker Sara Larsen
- 2 Ross Inman

Roger and Dana Luedeman

3 James Hemme Jillian Mueller Sara Sullivan Cara Wilckens

Edward and Linda Kammeyer

4 Rick Flandermeyer Owen Isdell Bradyn Jenkins Taylor Steinkuhler

Rolland and Joyce Beerman

- 5 Nicole Brackman Travis Lemmert Eli Martens Jonah Virus
- Jon and Amy Lange
- 6 Lillian Roepe
- 7 Jeff Bushman Laura Eckhoff Suzie Stegmann Joshalynn Vassar Ella Virus
- 8 Amaya Shaffer
- Kahlan Haase
 Katlyn Maggert
 Ali Schnakenberg
 Mary Beth Self
- 10 Kerrie Armbruster Tim Heimsoth Josiah Krause Gunner Vassar
- 11 Joe Blackburn Grayson Hess
- 12 Abel Elliott Rick Foster Larry Laubenstein
- 13 Patty Harrington Charlie Inman Wyatt Inman Lynette Northen

- 14 Ann Brockman Mark Kirchhoff Aaron Page
- 15 Samantha Brackman Rita Fiene Lari Huntze Chris McGinnis Jamie Roepe

Alan and Sharon Riesterer

- 16 Ashley Asmussen
 Carol Bishop
 Chesney Fahrmeier
 Christina Gates
 Benjamin Lange
 Kent Petty
 Markus Reinke
- 17 Emma Clouse Brenda Hemme Jason Todd
- 18 Sandra Blankenship
 Kaitlyn Cross
 Breanna Hageman
 Luke Roepe
 Diana Stumbaugh
 Joe and Janice Blackburn
 Travis and Erin Moore
- 19 Caroline Close
 Melba Poese
 Katherine Rudowske
 Aengus Wilson
 Paul and Cindy Heins
 Kenneth and Vicki Hemme
- 20 Porter McKeage
- 21 Greg Meyer
 Nathan Simmons
 John and Susan Foster
 Charles and Elva Snider
 Chris and Kelly Virus
- 22 Christian Bobzin Renee Meyers
- 23 Jeri Bell
 Natasha Frerking
 Lee and Patty Harrington
- 24 Karen Burrow Valerie Frerking Caitlynn Grass Andrew Kueck Dennis Meyer

- 25 Richard Clayton Corbin Heath Andrew Strobel
- 26 Richard Brackman
 John Cowherd
 Nichole Maxwell
 Zachary Wulser
 Alan and Melissa Luebbert
 Rev. Gary and Elois Muehler
 Ken and Mary Nierman
- 27 Ian Isdell
 Alex Nuelle
 Benjamin Nuelle
 Chad Nuelle
 Alyssa Petty
 Rev. Andrew & Louisa
 Lehenbauer
- 28 Addison Bingman
 Gracie Bobzin
 Hayden Brown
 Gloria Driver
 Adeline Frerking
 Ruth Rodewald
 Kathy Schuknecht
 Rev. Warren and Ardella
 Schmidt
- 29 William Cordes
 Alan Deatherage
 Wendy Dittmer
 Nathan Hartwig
 Richard Larimore
 Mya Luedeman
 Aaron Meyer
 Harland Mieser
 Chad Rankin
 Rev. Paul and Lucinda Mehl
 Bruce and Alice Stobel
- 30 Nicole McGinnis Jayden Maggert Brandie Sale Cheryl Spiegelhalter
- 31 Ruth Schmidt
 Greg and Martha Brown
 Steve & Betsy Mattlin





Serving this Month - December

Elders - Roger Fuchs; Ben Lange; Todd Martens

Altar Guild - Rachel Lange; Karen Bauer; Karol Vogelsmeier; Elisa Oetting

Sound System - Nick Virus 8am Jon Haase10:30am

Ushers - Lonnie Fischer; Jerry Werneke; Joel Oetting

8:00 AM - Terry Kammeyer, Capt.; John Kuecker, John Aversman, Cody Langkraehr, Paul Pennington, Kevin Brackman, Trent Kuecker, Ben Renno, James Hemme, Bruce Hass, Carl Bonar, Darl Fuhrman, Chad Nuelle, Paul Tebbenkamp 10:30 AM - Co-Capt.; Steve Oetting & Jon Lange, Dennis Tieman, Sean Oetting, Charles Koonce, Mark Krause, Brian Maddox, Lonnie Fischer, Derek Woodall, Jacob Lunbeck, Clint Oetting, Kaleb Virus

December 2022 - Church Calendar

u Fri Sat	2 Stuenkel/Malott Wedding	6	16	23 24 6pm Chilrdrens Worship 9pmCarols and Lessons	30 31 Hentges/Stuenkel Wedding
Thu	1	∞	15	22 Stuenkel/Colwell Wedding	29
Wed)20 1	8:30am SPLS Chapel 10am Advent Worship 12pm Womens Bible Study (PO) 6pm LGSH Auxiliary Advent Meal 7pm Advent Worshp	14 8:30am SPLS Chapel 10am Advent Worship 12pm Womens Bible Study (PO) 6pm Youth Advent Meal 7pm Advent Worshp	8:30am SPLS Chapel 12pm Womens Bible Study (PO)	28 12pm Womens Bible Study (PO) Brown/Wells Wedding
Tue	St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church 401 S. Main Concordia, Missouri 64020 Church Office: 463-2291	6 6pm Ladies Aid #1 (PO)	13	20	1:00pm Orphan Grain Train 7pm Elders (PO)
Mon	Cor	5 8am Prayer Partners (PO)	8am Prayer Partners (PO) 7pm Worship w/Communion	8am Prayer Partners (PO)	26
Sun	CC - Conference Center PO - Parish Office GSCC - Good Shepherd Care Community S.SSunday School B.CBible Class (C) - Communion	4 8 (C) & 10:30 Worship Services 9:15am Voters Meeting (Gym) 9:15am SS & Bible Study 9:30am GSCC Worship	11 8 & 10:30 (C) Worship Services 9:15am SS & Bible Study 9:30am GSCC Worship 3pn SPLHS Choir Christmas	Choir Concert 18 8 (C) & 10:30 Worship Services 9:15am SS & Bible Study 9:30am GSCC Worship	25 9:30am Christmas Day Worship with Communion