



ST. PAUL'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
— HOWARDS GROVE, WI —



CHRIST REVEALED FOR THE GENTILES

JANUARY 8 & 9, 2023



ST. PAUL'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

St. Paul's Church & School
441 Millersville Ave
Howards Grove, WI 53083
Office number: 920-565-3780
www.stpaulshowardsgrove.org

AARON MUELLER
PASTOR
pastormueller@stpaulshowardsgrove.org
920-207-2316

LUTHER CURIA
STAFF MINISTER
luther.curia@stpaulshowardsgrove.org
920-287-8575

ERIC EICKHOFF
HEAD ELDER
headelder@stpaulshowardsgrove.org
920-838-4064

ADAM BODE
PASTOR
pastorbode@stpaulshowardsgrove.org
920-224-2961

ERIN RADUE
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR
secretary@stpaulshowardsgrove.org
920-901-6167

CRAIG SCHUENEMANN
S.S. SUPERINTENDANT
craig.schuenemann@yahoo.com
920-254-7791

CHAD MAROHN
PRINCIPAL
chad.marohn@stpaulshowardsgrove.org
414-232-1915

TODD MARTEN
PRESIDENT
president@stpaulshowardsgrove.org
920-980-9068

LARRY JAEGER
BUILDING CHAIRMAN
building@stpaulshowardsgrove.org
920-901-0234

Welcome to St. Paul's!

A special welcome to our guests and visitors and thank you for joining us!

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We at St. Paul's share a common belief that Jesus is our Savior from sin and is the Lord of our lives. Our faith is based on God's Word, which is revealed in the Bible. We want to share this great news with as many people as possible, because we know that Jesus lived, died, and rose from death to save all people!

.....

COMMUNION

We offer Communion on the 2nd and 4th Sundays/Mondays of each month. God says that Communion is an expression of unity (1 Cor.10:16-17), so we practice close communion. Those who have explored and established unity with us on the basis of God's Word are invited up to the Lord's Table . Please speak to a pastor if you have questions about our practice.

FAMILIES WITH SMALL CHILDREN

There are changing tables located in BOTH the women's and men's school bathrooms near the school. There are children's quiet bags in the narthex. If you use one, please make sure to put it back. Please reserve the back few pews for families with small children. We have a nursery room located just off the narthex. There is a speaker in there so you can still hear and take part in the worship service. Please feel free to use this room for your child(ren), including a place to nurse.

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St. Paul's Lutheran Church is a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (The WELS) and was founded in 1862. We have our Lutheran elementary school (4K-grade 8) on site and are part of a federation of churches to support our own high school, Manitowoc Lutheran High School.

This Week's Focus: *Epiphany means to appear. In this season of the church year, Jesus appears or is shown to be the Christ by his ministry, miracles, and message. But it started even earlier than that. Jesus' family had been staying in Bethlehem since his birth. God caused a star to appear and guide Wise Men from the East to Bethlehem. No one could know on his own that this child was not only for the Jews. He is also for us. Today we see "Christ Revealed for the Gentiles".*

Communion Preparation: *Christian Questions to prepare our hearts for communion are found on pp. 295-296 in the hymnal. Prayer: Lord Jesus, you have invited me to come and receive your holy Sacrament. I believe that in the bread and wine you give me your true body and blood to eat and drink. Forgive my sins and nourish my faith through this precious meal. I long for the comfort that comes with your promises; I yearn for the assurance of your faithful love. Bless me now as I receive you by faith.*

As with Gladness Men of Old

CW 372

Stand

In the name of the Father, who is the "Father of the heavenly lights," and of the (+) Son, who is the "Light of the world," and of the Holy Spirit, who reveals that light to us through the gospel.

Amen.

Arise! Shine! Your light has come and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.
The darkness of sin surrounds the earth. Nations upon nations are turning away from the Lord.

But you are honored to live in the Light of the Lord.

His glory and grace are shining on us.

The Lord is present.

Look! We are standing on holy ground!

Let us reflect the light of God's love
so that others may live in his light!

Confession of Sins

God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.



C: Lord, have mer - cy.

For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.



C: Christ, have mer - cy.

For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.



C: Lord, have mer - cy.

Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:

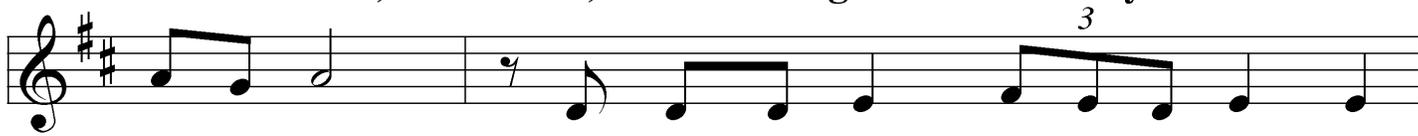


C: A - men.

The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.



C: O Lord, our Lord, how glo - rious is your name in



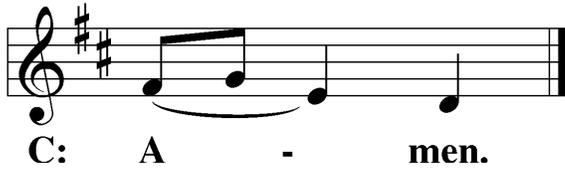
all the earth. Al - might - y God, mer - ci - ful Fa - ther,

you crown our life with your love. You take a - way our sin;
 you com - fort our spir - it; you make us pure and
 ho - ly in your sight. You did not spare your on - ly Son,
 but gave him up for us all. O Lord, our Lord,
 how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.
 O Son of God, e - ter - nal Word of the Fa - ther,
 you came to live with us; you made your Fa - ther known;
 you washed us from our sins in your own blood. You are the
 King of glo - ry; you are the Lord! O Lord, our Lord,
 how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Lord God, by the leading of a star, you once made known to the nations your one and only Son. Guide us, also, who know him now by faith

to come at last to the perfect joy of your heavenly glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Be Seated

Sacrament of Holy Baptism [10:30]

Henry John Scheuer

First Reading

Isaiah 60:1–6

Nations will come to the light in Israel; people will come from afar bringing their wealth.

- ¹“Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.
- ²See, darkness covers the earth
and thick darkness is over the peoples,
but the LORD rises upon you
and his glory appears over you.
- ³Nations will come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
- ⁴“Lift up your eyes and look about you:
All assemble and come to you;
your sons come from afar,
and your daughters are carried on the hip.
- ⁵Then you will look and be radiant,
your heart will throb and swell with joy;
the wealth on the seas will be brought to you,
to you the riches of the nations will come.
- ⁶Herds of camels will cover your land,
young camels of Midian and Ephah.
And all from Sheba will come,
bearing gold and incense
and proclaiming the praise of the LORD.

Second Reading

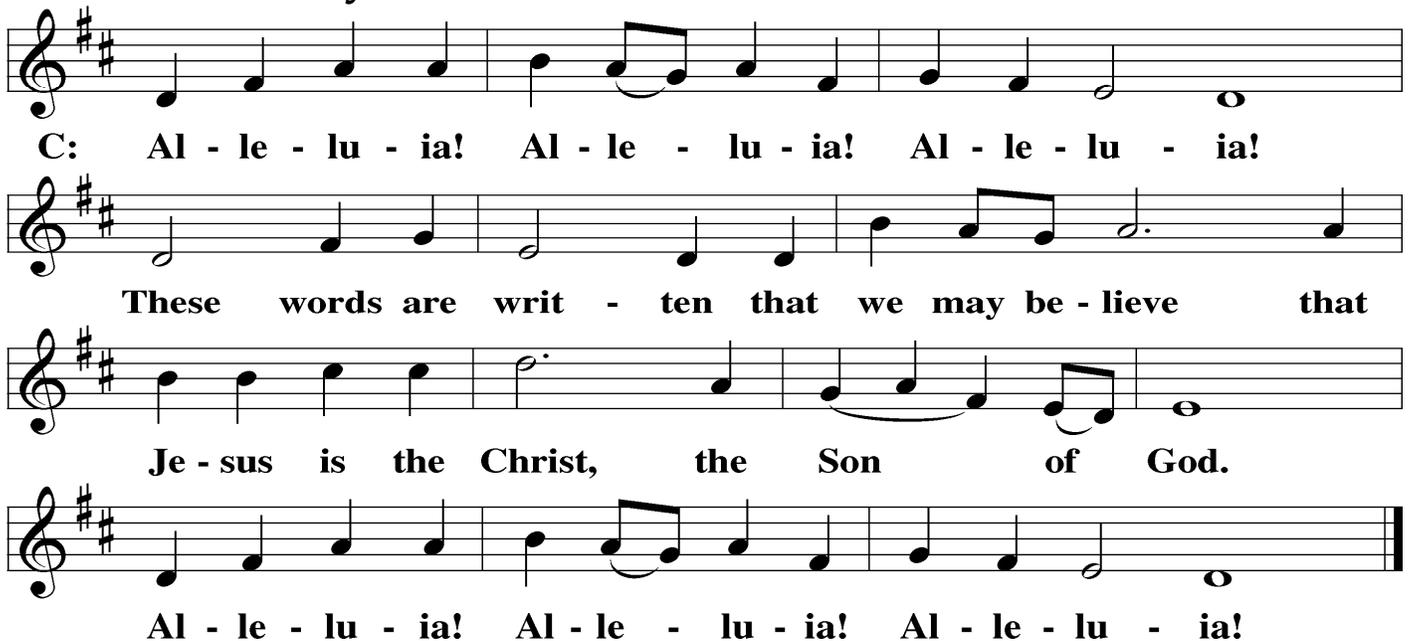
Ephesians 3:2–12

Through the gospel preached by Paul, the Gentiles are now heirs together with Israel, sharing in the promise in Christ Jesus.

²Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. ⁴In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. ⁶This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

⁷I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. ⁸Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. ¹⁰His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, ¹¹according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹²In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

Verse of the Day



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Gospel

Matthew 2:1–12

The Lord led wise men from the East to see and worship Jesus in Bethlehem.

¹After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ²and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

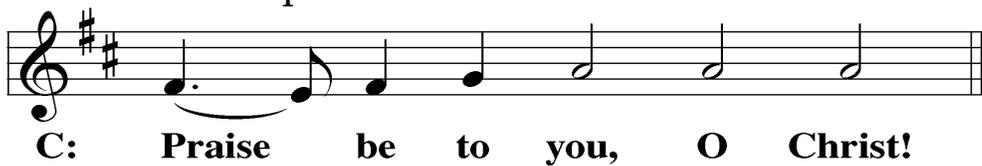
³When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵“In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶“ ‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.’”

⁷Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

⁹After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Soloist will sing verse 1

Sermon

Ephesians 3:2–12

There's a Place for You

God reveals it * God affirms it * We proclaim it

Stand

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and became truly human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who in unity with the Father and the Son

is worshiped and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

**We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Be Seated

Prayer of the Church

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God and Mary's son, in the fullness of time you came into our world to save us from sin and death.

You ushered in the day of grace so long foretold.

Beloved Son of the Father, revered by the Magi, baptized by John, you came preaching and teaching, healing and comforting, forgiving and encouraging.

You brought the light of life to those walking in darkness, and the joy of salvation to those doomed to death.

Prince of Peace, shine like a beacon for us and the people of our world. Let the good news of salvation be heard in the most remote corners of the earth. Open our own lips to speak your name to those around us who still live without faith or hope.

Arouse us and our missionaries to flood the world with the light of your gospel.

Preserve your truth among us and by that truth preserve us until you appear in dazzling splendor to bring us to the glory of heaven. Let our anticipation of the heavenly kingdom ennoble our thinking and speaking, enrich our conduct, and increase our joy in all aspects of earthly life.

Be gracious to all and lead us to reflect your love in everything we say and do.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

Finally, bring us and all your believers to the heavenly home where we will stand in the full light of your glory and with all your saints and angels sing the everlasting song of triumph.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Stand

Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

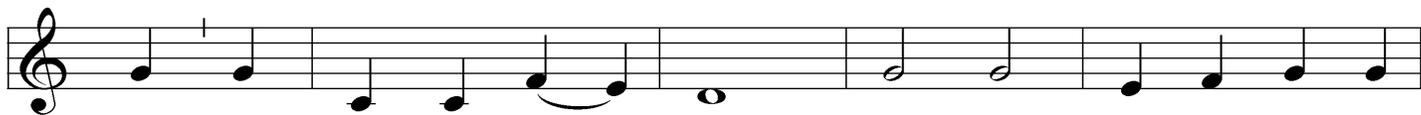


C: A - men.

O Christ, Lamb of God



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you

take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; grant us your peace. A - men.

Be Seated

Distribution

St. Paul's follows the Biblical and historic Christian practice of close communion. It means those trained in God's Word and who confess their unity of faith here by their membership may commune. For our dear guests we would love to have you join us at the sacrament after studying God's Word and joining here as a member. The pastors would further love to speak with anyone about this if desired.

How Lovely Shines the Morning Star

CW 370

Stand

Thank the Lord

C: Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.

Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud - ly bear his name.

He re - news his prom - is - es and leads his peo - ple forth in joy with

shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have

received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

Blessing

Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.

Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

Arise and Shine in Splendor

CW 375 sts. 3–4

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SERVING JESUS WITH HEARTS OF LOVE:

PASTOR: Rev. Aaron Mueller

ORGANIST: Gillian Curia

MUSICIANS: Rev. Adam Bode and Jill Grzonka

ALTAR GUILD: Bonnie Baumann, Karen Beining, Sandra Weber.

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: 8:00 – STEVE SCHUELER, ERIC SPECHT. 10:30 – TODD MARTEN, ERIC VANT HUL

USHERS: 8:00 a.m.- Allen Kraemer, Trevor Athorp, Ray Price, Dan Goetsch, James Bilgo.

10:30 a.m. Alan Kuether, Terry Roehrborn, Jeremy Neseemann, Aidan Dailey.

Online giving options available

In thanks to our gracious Lord and his gift of forgiveness in Jesus, we bring to him a generous portion of all we have received from him. Offerings for the Lord's work may be placed in one of the designated boxes in the narthex today. They may also be mailed in, dropped off in the office, or given online.

OFFERINGS: 12/24 & 12/25 - \$27,770 (NEEDED EACH WEEK \$16,700). \$17,760 GROWING FORWARD(\$2,000 COUNT TOWARD THE MATCHING FUNDS).

ATTENDANCE 12/18: 8:00 – 316. 10:30 – 450. 12/24 : 2:00 – 302. 4:00 – 230. 6:30 – 79. 12/25: 203. 12/31 – 66. 1/1 – 158. 1/2 – 16

In our prayers this week...

1. Family of Eugene Rabe, who was called home to heaven last Sunday night.
2. Henry John Scheuer, son of Max and Lindsey, on his baptism today.
3. Liam Ryan Sheahan, son of Colin and Courtney, on his baptism Saturday.
4. Thanks to the Lord for leading Nathan and Molly Meitner to return their calls to Ohio and remain serving here and at MLHS.

This Week at a Glance:	
Date	Service, Bible Study, and Class Times
Sunday, January 8	Worship Services: 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.
	9:15 - 10:15 a.m. Family Bible Hour
Monday, January 9	6:00 p.m. Monday Night Worship
	7:00 p.m. Adult Choir Practice
Wednesday, January 11	8:30 a.m. Mindful Moms Bible Study
	9:00 a.m. Bible Study
	9:30 a.m. Mindful Moms Music & Movement
	2:00 p.m. Funeral for Eugene Rabe
	4:15 p.m. Public School Catechism
	6:30 p.m. Evangelism
Sunday, January 15	6:30 p.m. Pickleball in the Gym (see below)
	Worship Services: 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.
	9:15 - 10:15 a.m. Family Bible Hour

1. **Sunday Bible Study:** Racism has been a contentious issue in our country in recent years. We've already been through the Civil War and the Civil Rights Movement. What are the current concerns? What does God's Word say? Sunday morning Bible study resumes this weekend on the Lutheran Church's Response to Racism.
2. **On January 15th** we will have a call meeting for a 3k teacher. This meeting will take place during the first part of Bible Study, in the gym
3. **On January 22nd**, we have the return of our Mid-Winter Brat Fry that will take place following the second service. Thank you to Luther Curia, the Activities Committee, and Tim and Ann Doro for coordinating this event for us! Our Annual Voters' Meeting will take place after the brat fry, around 12:30/12:45 p.m. At this meeting we

will have elections for new members of our boards and committees, as well as a proposal from the Officers to amend the Bylaws to add a vice president position to the Board of Officers and Council. The Trustees will also be bringing a motion to expand the Board of Trustees to 5 members, from the current total of 4.

4. **Mrs. Meitner**, our Kindergarten teacher, and her husband Nathan (who serves at Manitowoc Lutheran High School) have returned their calls to Ohio and will remain here serving among us. We give thanks to the Lord that he has led them to stay!
5. **Principal Chad Marohn** received a call on December 15 to start a high school in the Chippewa Falls area. Please keep him in your prayers and encourage him as he deliberates where he can best serve in God's kingdom.
6. **Our next Voters' Meeting (with brat fry) is on January 22nd** starting at 11:45 am. Reports should be sent to you the prior week. This is an important meeting where new leaders for service to the congregation will be elected.
7. **Capital Campaign Update:** As the final building costs become more clear, we could have a potential mortgage around \$3.1M which is about \$500,000 higher than originally planned. There are still on-going activities to reduce the mortgage, but any additional gifts or pledges will help offset the amount of the mortgage. A generous donor at St. Paul's will match \$.50 on the dollar up to \$65,000. If pledges and gifts are given (above and beyond already pledged amounts) up to \$130,000, we will maximize this gift! (Each dollar gifted then is worth \$1.50.)
8. **Pastor Mueller and Mr. Curia are traveling to Israel** January 10-20.
9. **Tuesday Evening Bible Study:** Staff Minister Luther Curia will begin a study entitled "Jesus the Messiah". We will look at a chronological, Christ-centered journey through the storyline of Scripture. Each week, participants will encounter God's plan of redemption in Scripture through study of the biblical narrative, the essential doctrines of faith, and the call to join in God's mission locally and around the world. The study will cover Jesus coming into the world (Luke), Jesus beginning his Ministry (Gospels), and Jesus among the people (Gospels). **Join us Tuesday nights at 6:30 p.m. beginning 1/24.** The study will run through 4/4; come when you can!
10. **Bible Information Class beginning** on January 24th at 6pm. This course is our path to membership at St. Paul's or a great refresher of your catechism training. The class is *only 9 weeks* and each session runs two hours. Please register by contacting Pastor Mueller.
11. **The Apostle Paul's** first missionary journey was to the area of Galatia. Encouraging those new congregations in the central teachings of the faith was vital. These things are still vital. Starting February 16th (Thursday evenings at 6:30) join an evening

study of the book of **Galatians**. You'll grow as we keep in step with the Spirit and stand firm in the freedom Christ won for us! Register with Pastor Mueller.

- 12.3 Sheeps:** The Activities Committee invites you to enjoy fellowship and fun at 3 Sheeps on January 28 from 6:00-9:00. Feel free to bring food/snacks to share; some will be provided. We have a section reserved and are looking forward to some cornhole too! See you there!
- 13. Building Project Update** - Little work took place over the holidays. As I type this (on Wednesday) more blocks are being placed on the firewall.
- 14. Worship Greeters** We are seeking members willing to smile and welcome people before worship services. This is a great opportunity to get to know more of our growing congregation. If interested in more details, please see the sign-up sheet in the member room or speak with Katie Schuenemann.
- 15. The Lutheran Pioneers** will start their winter session on Wednesday, January 18th for boys and girls in 1st - 8th grade. They will meet weekly on Wednesdays from 3:45 - 5:15 p.m., learning about woodworking tools and safety, with the goal of making a pinewood derby car. If you are interested, you can find more information printed for you on the bulletin table in the narthex.
- 16. PTF Pizza Fundraiser** - The students of St. Paul's are once again selling delicious homemade pizzas! Pizzas may be purchased from any participating student between now and **February 8th**. Or, pick up an order form from the member room and return it to the office or the marked drawer in the member room with payment by the 8th. **Pizzas will be made and ready for pickup at the school on Saturday, February 18th.** Contact Katie Meyer with any questions: katieb82@hotmail.com.
- 17. On behalf of the called workers at St. Paul's**, thank you all for your prayers, your encouragement and support, and thank you for your generosity to us this Christmas. We are so blessed to serve God here with you!
- 18. Pickleball, y'all!** Now's your chance! Young adults, old adults, and everyone in between! It's a really big DILL! Join us every Wednesday night starting on January 11th at 6:30 p.m. for indoor fun and fellowship! No experience required! We'll teach you the rules. Extra pickleball paddles will be available for use! Any questions, please contact Nathan or Molly Meitner at (608)-498-7605 or molly.meitner@stpaulshowardsgrove.org.