

THE LORD
COMES NEAR TO
LIFT THE HUMBLLED

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH



DECEMBER 19 & 20
2021



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**ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH**
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**St. Paul's Lutheran Church is a
Congregation in the Wisconsin
Evangelical Lutheran Synod.**



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

We want to extend a warm welcome to everyone attending this worship service! Especially to you who are guests and visitors, WELCOME!

We at St. Paul's Lutheran share a common belief in **Jesus** as **our Savior** from sin and as the Lord of our lives. Our faith is based on God's Word, revealed in the Bible. We want to share God's Word with as many people as possible because we know that Jesus lived, died and rose from death to save us and all people. We're happy to have the opportunity to share the saving truths of the Bible with you!

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Pew Cards: We kindly request that visitors fill out a pew card so that we have a record of your visit and can invite you to other events here at St. Paul's!

Little Children: We love having our little ones in worship with us! If desired, quiet bags and sketch tablets are located near the nursery to the right after you exit the sanctuary. The nursery is there to use if young ones become restless during the service as well.

Restrooms are located just off the gathering room.

Baby changing stations are in the restrooms down the hall just beyond the kitchen and commons area.

If you need any help, our ushers (seated in the back of church) are here to help!

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 (pre K-grade 8) on site and are part of a federation of churches to support our own high school, Manitowoc Lutheran High School.

Today's Worship Focus: *By this time of the holiday season, people are often weighed down. They feel guilty about presents that are not perfect, or parties that did not go as planned, or year-end projects that did not get completed. To top it all off, now is when it dawns on people how little attention they have given to the spiritual preparation Advent invites. If that is how we feel, perhaps the frenzy of December has actually done us a favor. We have been stretched to our limits. We have been made aware of our shortcomings. We have been humbled. Perfect! For being made aware of our weaknesses does not disqualify us from God's care. It does the opposite. It is what prepares us for the work he does best. He is a God who lifts up the humbled.*

Communion Preparation: *Christian Questions to prepare our hearts for communion are found on pp. 295-296 in the hymnal. Prayer: Lord, I am not worthy to be a guest at your holy table. But you are the friend of sinners, and you will not cast me out. This bread is your body, which bore my sins upon the tree. This wine is your blood, which purifies me from all guilt. At your invitation, I come rejoicing. Receive me, my Savior. Amen,*

THE COMMON SERVICE

OPENING HYMN

My Soul in Stillness Waits | 325

A soloist will sing verses 1 & 2.

Please stand.

INVOCATION

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son ☩ and of the Holy Spirit.

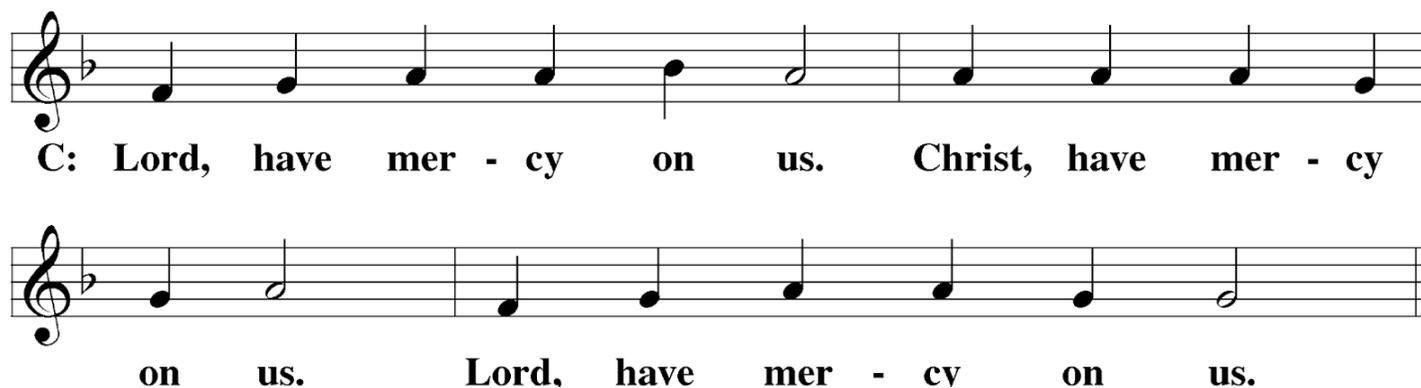


C: A - men.

CONFESSION OF SINS

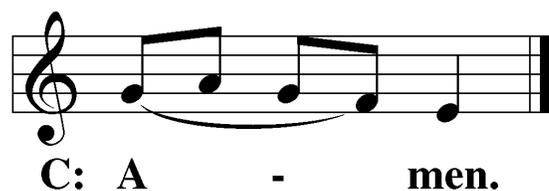
M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: **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.**



C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy
on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us.

M: 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.



C: A - men.

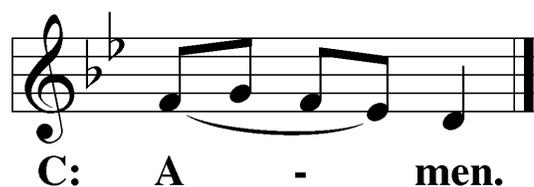
PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

M: Let us pray. Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

Be seated.

[10:30] SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM *James Thomas Barber*

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Micah 5:2-5a

The humble town of Bethlehem would be exalted by the birth of the One to be Ruler over Israel.

- ² “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
though you are small among the clans of Judah,
out of you will come for me
one who will be ruler over Israel,
whose origins are from of old,
from ancient times.”
- ³ Therefore Israel will be abandoned
until the time when she who is in labor bears a son,
and the rest of his brothers return
to join the Israelites.
- ⁴ He will stand and shepherd his flock
in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they will live securely, for then his greatness
will reach to the ends of the earth.
- ⁵ And he will be our peace
when the Assyrians invade our land
and march through our fortresses.

ANTHEM

Come, Messiah!

Sung by Small Group

O come, Divine Messiah, the world in silence waits the day when hope shall sing its triumph, and sorrows flee away. O come, Desire of nations, whom priest and prophet long foretold, and break the chains that bind us, redeem your long-lost fold.

Refrain: Come, Messiah! Dispel our night with the dawn of grace. Come, Messiah! We long to see your face. Come, Messiah, come!

O come, dear Child of promise, for lowly shall your cradle be; though clothed in human likeness, we shall the Godhead see! *Refrain*

SECOND LESSON

Hebrews 10:5-10

Jesus humbly came to do the Lord's will and made us holy by his sacrifice.

⁵Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said:

"Sacrifice and offering you did not desire,
but a body you prepared for me;
⁶with burnt offerings and sin offerings
you were not pleased.

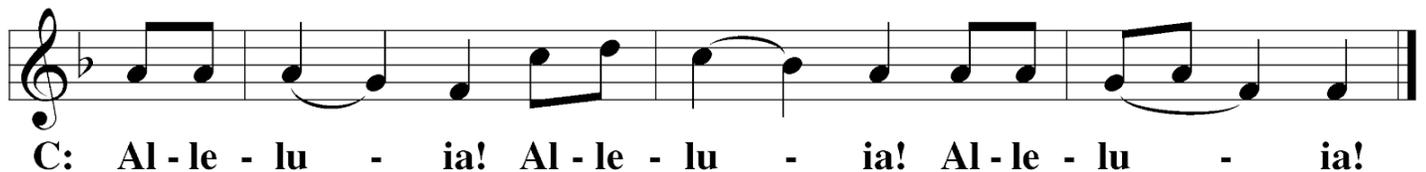
⁷Then I said, 'Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll—
I have come to do your will, my God.'"

⁸First he said, "Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them" — though they were offered in accordance with the law. ⁹Then he said, "Here I am, I have come to do your will." He sets aside the first to establish the second. ¹⁰And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

VERSE OF THE DAY

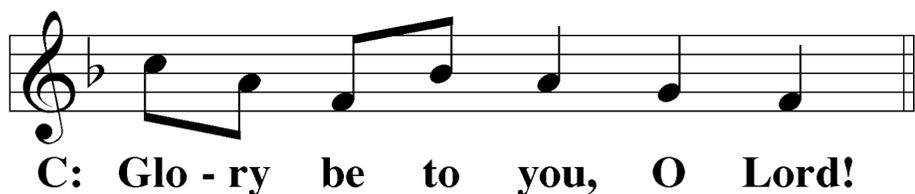
Matthew 1:23

M: Alleluia. The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel. Alleluia.



Please stand.

M: The Gospel according to Luke chapter 1.



GOSPEL

Luke 1:39-55

Elizabeth reminded Mary how blessed she was, and Mary glorified the Lord as his humble servant.

³⁹ At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, ⁴⁰ where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! ⁴³ But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

⁴⁶ And Mary said:

47 "My soul glorifies the Lord
48 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
49 for he has been mindful
of the humble state of his servant.
From now on all generations will call me blessed,
50 for the Mighty One has done great things for me—
51 holy is his name.
His mercy extends to those who fear him,
from generation to generation.
52 He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;
he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.
53 He has brought down rulers from their thrones
but has lifted up the humble.
54 He has filled the hungry with good things
but has sent the rich away empty.
55 He has helped his servant Israel,
remembering to be merciful
to Abraham and his descendants forever,
just as he promised our ancestors."

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

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 fully 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.

HYMN OF THE DAY

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You | 324

SERMON

Hebrews 10:5-10

Got Your Goat?

[10:30] NEW MEMBER INDUCTION

Dan & Jodi Stange

Please stand.

Our offerings of thanks to the Lord will be brought forward during the following song.



C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men.

SPECIAL PRAYERS AND LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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.

THE SACRAMENT

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: 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."

M: 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 away the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. Amen.

Be seated.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION: *St. Paul's invites up to Communion instructed and confirmed members of this congregation and the Wisconsin Synod (WELS). If you are visiting us and are not a member of either, we would love to have you join us - just after we have established a shared faith in Jesus with you on the basis of God's Word. Please speak with one of our pastors after the service so we can make this happen.*

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

As Angels Joyed with One Accord | 320

Please stand.

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: And his mercy endures for - ev - er.

M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: A - men.

THE BENEDICTION

M: 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.

CLOSING HYMN

Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord | 315 v.1,4

Be seated.

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SERVING JESUS WITH HEARTS OF LOVE

PASTOR: Rev. Aaron Mueller

ORGANIST: Susan Phelps

MUSICIANS: Rev. Adam Bode, Alycia Cameron, Ann Doro, Bev Gumm, Christina Sprenger, and Tanya Schmidt

ALTAR GUILD: Marilyn Eirich, Jenny Walleser, Sandy Bolz, Stefani Leverenz.

USHERS: 8:00 a.m.- Eric Specht, Doug Mattek, Payton Specht, Mike Austreng.

10:30 a.m. Chad Hayner, Mike Heilman. Monday 6:30: Dexter Porter

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.



OFFERING: 12/12: \$21,605 (WEEKLY BUDGET GOAL: \$16,300).

ADDITIONAL \$14,324 WAS RECEIVED FOR GROWING FORWARD.

ATTENDANCE: 12/12: 8:00-321, 10:30-537

In our prayers this week...

1. James Barber on his baptism!
2. Dan and Jodi Stange as they profess unity of faith with us and become St. Paul's members!
3. The people who have suffered terrible loss in Kentucky due to inclement weather.

This Week at a Glance:	
Date	Service, Bible Study, and Class Times
Sunday, December 19	Worship Services: 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. <u>Link to Online Weekend Worship Services</u>
	9:15 a.m. Family Bible Hour
Monday, December 20	6:00 p.m. Monday Night Worship
	7:00 p.m. Adult Choir Practice
Tuesday, December 21	LES Christmas Caroling
Wednesday, December 22 NO SCHOOL/OFFICE CLOSED	8:45 a.m. YES! BIBLE STUDY After this we will resume January 5th, 2022
	10:00 a.m. Mindful Moms Playdate
Thursday, December 23 NO SCHOOL	Office Open in the Morning
Friday, December 24 Christmas Eve	1:00 Christmas Eve Worship <u>Livestream Link</u>
	3:00 Christmas Eve Worship
	5:00 Christmas Eve Worship
	7:00 Christmas Eve Worship
Saturday, December 25 Christmas Day	9:00 Christmas Day Worship <u>Livestream Link</u>

1. **Office hours over break: 12/20 & 12/21 7:30a.m. - 4:00 p.m.. 12/23: 7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.. 12/29: 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m..**

2. **Sunday Morning Bible Study** - After Thanksgiving, we dedicated our new hymnals to the glory of our saving God. As with anything new, it will take a little time to adjust. During Family Bible Hour on December 19, we will continue exploring the new hymnal, especially the service settings, and all it has to offer for public worship and home use. Come and learn more about this great blessing for God's people. There will be no Bible class or Sunday School on December 26 and January 2.
3. **2022 Sunday Bible Study** - Starting January 9, our Sunday morning Bible study will take us through the book of James. James warns against a dead faith that does nothing. He encourages us to be active in faith, whether going through sufferings or speaking with love, whether in praying boldly or planning humbly, helping the poor or practicing good works. Come and receive guidance in living your faith!
4. **Sunday School** - We are thankful to the Lord for 78 students in Sunday School this year! We still welcome having more. If they haven't yet registered, that may be done through this link, or by speaking with Craig Schuenemann or Pastor Bode.
5. **Shut-in & Harvest Home Gifts:** St. Paul's shut-ins as well as the residents of Harvest Home will be receiving a small Christmas gift from our St. Paul's family. The gifts for Harvest Home residents will be delivered by our St. Paul's students as they go Christmas caroling Dec. 21. If you'd like to make a donation to help defray the costs for these items, please drop it in the office or put it in an envelope in member mailbox B1. Contact Luther Curia with any questions: 920.287.8575; luther.curia@stpaulshowardsgrove.org.
6. **Mindful Moms Playdate** - We are having an open gym next Wednesday, December 22nd from 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. in the gym. Bring out your kiddos to help get the wiggles out before Christmas!
7. **Christmas Eve Worship:** On Christmas Eve this year we will have four opportunities to go with the shepherds and find the Savior lying in a manger. The 1:00, 3:00, and 5:00 services will involve several musicians. The 7:00 service will be a candlelight lessons & carols service.
8. **Christmas Eve Cleanup:** We are looking for several volunteers to help cleanup after the 7:00 Christmas Eve service (candles, vacuuming, decorations , etc.). Thank you for considering if you may help! If you have any questions, please contact Luther Curia: 920.287.8575; luther.curia@stpaulshowardsgrove.org.
9. **If you have interest in helping the people affected by tornados** and extreme weather recently, these people need three things. They need our prayers. They need help financially. They also need blood donations to help them medically. You can donate to WELS Christian Aid and Relief directly (<https://wels.net/serving-others/christian-aid-relief/>) or you can donate to St. Paul's with this noted and we will send it in (up to January 3).
10. **December Communion Schedule Changes** - Since Christmas at St. Paul's happened in the gym on what would have been a communion weekend this year, we will offer communion in

services on December 19th-20th, as well as the normal New Years Eve Communion service, which will be held at 6:30 pm on December 31st.

11. **The Sheboygan Falls Food Pantry** is pleased to announce that beginning on December 11, 2021, the pantry will be open on the 2nd Saturday of each month from 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM. This is in addition to our normal hours every Thursday from 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM. Patrons are welcome to visit the pantry once each month. We look forward to continuing to serve the communities of: Cedar Grove, Hingham, Howards Grove, Kohler, Oostburg, Sheboygan Falls and Waldo. Please remember to bring the following each time you visit: Photo ID, Current Utility Bill, Paper Grocery Bags, Face masks (required to enter the pantry).
12. **Called Worker Gift Box** - If you would like to remember our Called Workers with a monetary gift for Christmas, a box is located in the narthex for you to do so. This box will remain out for the month of December.
13. **Free Hymnals** - Now that we have the new blue hymnals in place, we are giving away our old red hymnals. Hymnals are a wonderful resource for home devotions, singing around the piano or playing with brass and woodwind instruments. If you'd like to take any with you, the red hymnals are located in the balcony behind the organ in medium-sized boxes.
14. **A change to our typical schedule**, please note the January voters' meeting is on Saturday, January 29th at 9:00 am. There will be a breakfast served at 8:00am. We are planning an open forum during the Bible study hour on January 23.
15. **Tuesday night basketball** will be running again starting on January 11, 2022. It will run every Tuesday night from 7-8:30. Everyone ages 12 and up are welcome to join us.

MLHS ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **MLHS Campaign-Building Our Future on Christ** -We thank you Lancer Family! We not only met our goal to raise \$75,000 in the month of November, but we surpassed it! Thank you for prayers, support, and donations you gave to Month of Giving promotion! Our job as a federation is not done! We are moving forward with our plans. We have a final design (cf. the latest video with the 3-D rendering at www.mlhslancers.org/campaign.) The more we can raise up front the better! To find out more about that, please call our mission advancement office at 920-682-0215. Thank you for your support and for considering a generous contribution to the campaign!
2. **MLHS Call Update** -The MLHS Federation called Pastor Aaron Dolan for the theology department. Aaron is brother to MLHS teacher Jeff Dolan. Aaron is married with 3 children. This call is to replace Pastor Jon Meyer who took a one-year call to serve this year. Thank you for keeping Aaron's family and your high school in your prayers.
3. **MLHS Christmas Concert:** The music department of Manitowoc Lutheran High School will be holding its annual Christmas Concert on Wednesday, December 22nd at the Capitol Civic

Centre in downtown Manitowoc. The concert, entitled “Joy Has Dawned!” will feature the three high school choirs and the MLHS Symphonic Band. Also featured will be the Lakeshore Lutheran Chorale, an adult ensemble made up of members from the WELS Lutheran Churches along the Lakeshore. The concert’s closing anthem, “O Come, All Ye Faithful”, will feature a special Christmas orchestra and the combined voices of the MLHS choirs and the Lakeshore Lutheran Chorale. All students from the area WELS Lutheran Elementary Schools and Churches are invited to join in singing this anthem that they learned for the recent choral festival at MLHS. Concert times at the CCC are 4:30 and 7:30. The concert is free and open to the public; however, a free will offering will be gathered.

4. **MLHS Newsletters and More:** Stay in touch with your high school and subscribe to various newsletters by going to www.mlhslancers.org/subscription. After subscribing you will receive the newsletter(s) you signed up for. **Be sure to check your junk mail** as the first one may go there instead. The alumni newsletter is one of the options listed. You will not want to miss reading what a recent alumni shared in the December Alumni newsletter. ENJOY! For any questions contact mlhs@mlhslancers.org.
5. **SCRIP** – Visit www.mlhslancers.org/scrip today for your Christmas shopping list or stop in to see the friendly SCRIP ladies today and place your order!
6. **Junior Lancer Basketball** -Registration is OPEN for Jr. Lancer Basketball. Please register today! Go to: www.mlhslancers.org/juniorlancers. Then click on Junior Lancer Basketball!
7. **Charitable Giving Through Estate Planning** - Estate planning (also called a will or trust) is a collection of documents that specify how you want your money and other assets distributed after your death, making it easier for your loved ones to handle your affairs during a time of grief. This one-on-one coaching is sponsored by MLHS and is confidential. Due to a generous donation, when you complete the one-on-one coaching through SFC and you will be reimbursed up to \$500 for the attorney fees! Individuals will be responsible for paying other attorney fees if applicable. This is simply a gift from the MLHS Foundation to you and your family for your love and support of Manitowoc Lutheran High School. Coaching can be done one on one or via zoom call. More information can be found on the MLHS website or contact Ryan Hulse – rhulse@mlhslancers.org
8. **UPCOMING EVENTS**
 - 12/22-Christmas Concert
 - 1/14-1/16/2022-Grade School B-Team Bball Tournament
 - 1/21/2022-Lancer for a Day
 - 1/21-1/23/2022-Grade School A-Team Bball Tournament
 - 1/24 & 1/26/2022-Freshman Information Night