

THE LORD COMES NEAR
TO HUMBLE US

DECEMBER 5 & 6, 2021

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
HOWARDS GROVE, WI



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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

Worship during these times: All pews in the sanctuary are open for seating. Face coverings are optional -- up to the individual. Bibles and hymnals are in the racks for use as desired. Hand sanitizer is available in the narthex. All responses and songs are printed in your bulletin, which may be taken with you or discarded after worship. Offerings may be placed in the designated boxes in the narthex.

Communion is offered in worship each month on the 2nd and 4th weekends. Members may also schedule a communion appointment with one of our pastors if unable to attend in-person services.

DVDs: DVDs of our worship services can be made per request. Please contact the office to make arrangements. In order to ensure cleanliness, you do not need to return a DVD. Please consider a small monetary donation (\$2) to cover the cost of the DVD if you request one.

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.



SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

This Week's Focus: *People tend to feel a lot of pressure this time of year. We want our houses to look good for out-of-town guests. We want to impress people with the thoughtfulness of our gifts. What a welcome relief, therefore, to hear what is required to meet the Lord: only repentance. You see, Jesus is not someone we need to impress with our good works. Indeed, repentance is the opposite of work. Repentance is the humble admission of our sin combined with the joyful trust that everything needed to bring us close to God has already been done by him.*

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

Comfort, Comfort All My People | 312

Please stand.

INVOCATION

M: The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

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.

HYMN

O Jesus, Lamb of God, You Are | v. 1

Sung by Soloist

O Jesus, Lamb of God, you are
My comfort and my guiding star;
I come, a sinner, trustingly
And bring my many sins with me.

C: O Lord, do not rebuke me in your anger or discipline me in your wrath. My guilt has overwhelmed me like a burden too heavy to bear. I am bowed down and brought very low; I groan in anguish of heart. I confess my iniquity; I am troubled by my sin. O Lord, do not forsake me; be not far from me. Come quickly to help me, O Lord my Savior.
(selected verses from Psalm 38)

HYMN

O Jesus, Lamb of God, You Are | v. 2

Sung by Soloist

O Lord, my sin indeed is great;
I groan beneath the dreadful weight.
Be merciful to me I pray;
Take guilt and punishment away.

Silent Confession

HYMN

O Jesus, Lamb of God, You Are | v. 3

Sung by Soloist

Saint John the Baptist points to you
And bids me cast my sin on you,
For you have left your throne on high
To suffer for the world and die.

M: Because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in transgressions - it is by grace you have been saved. In Jesus you have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace.
(Ephesians 2:4-5 & 1:7)

C: We have been brought from death to life. Sin shall not be our master, because we are not under law, but under grace. (Romans 6:13-14)

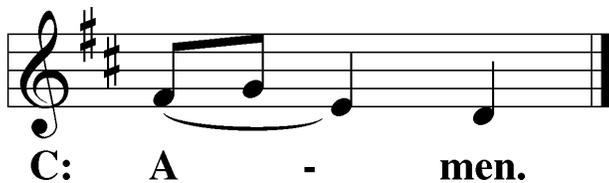
HYMN

O Jesus, Lamb of God, You Are | v. 4

ALL: Help me to change my ways, O Lord,
And gladly to obey your Word.
While here I live, abide with me,
Then take me home eternally.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of your only-begotten Son, that at his second coming we may worship him in purity, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.



Be seated.

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Malachi 3:1-7b

The LORD will send his messenger to prepare the way for him and call people to return to him in humble repentance.

¹“I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the LORD you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the LORD Almighty.

²But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner’s fire or a launderer’s soap. ³He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, ⁴and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the LORD, as in days gone by, as in former years.

⁵“So I will come to put you on trial. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive the

foreigners among you of justice, but do not fear me," says the LORD Almighty.

⁶ "I the LORD do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. ⁷ Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you," says the LORD Almighty.

Please stand.

GOSPEL

Luke 3:1-6

*John prepared the way for the Lord by humbling hearts,
preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.*

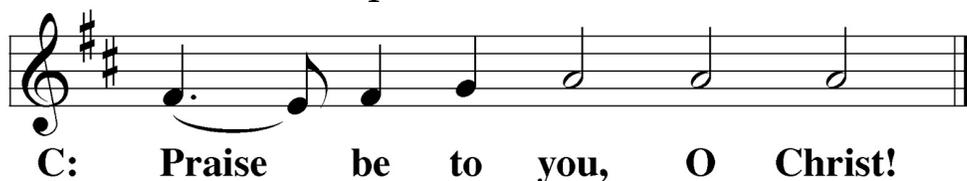
¹ In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene— ² during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴ As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

"A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
'Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.

⁵ Every valley shall be filled in,
every mountain and hill made low.
The crooked roads shall become straight,
the rough ways smooth.

⁶ And all people will see God's salvation.'"

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Be seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry | 316 v. 1-3

SERMON

Malachi 3

My Messenger Will Prepare You

For the coming purifier - For the coming testifier

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

SERMON HYMN

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry | 316 vv. 4,5

Please 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 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.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH & 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

Our Lord Jesus has given us a holy supper in which we receive his true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith. In this supper we celebrate the gift of his redemption, we bear witness to the fellowship we share as confessors of the truth, and we proclaim his death until he returns.

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."

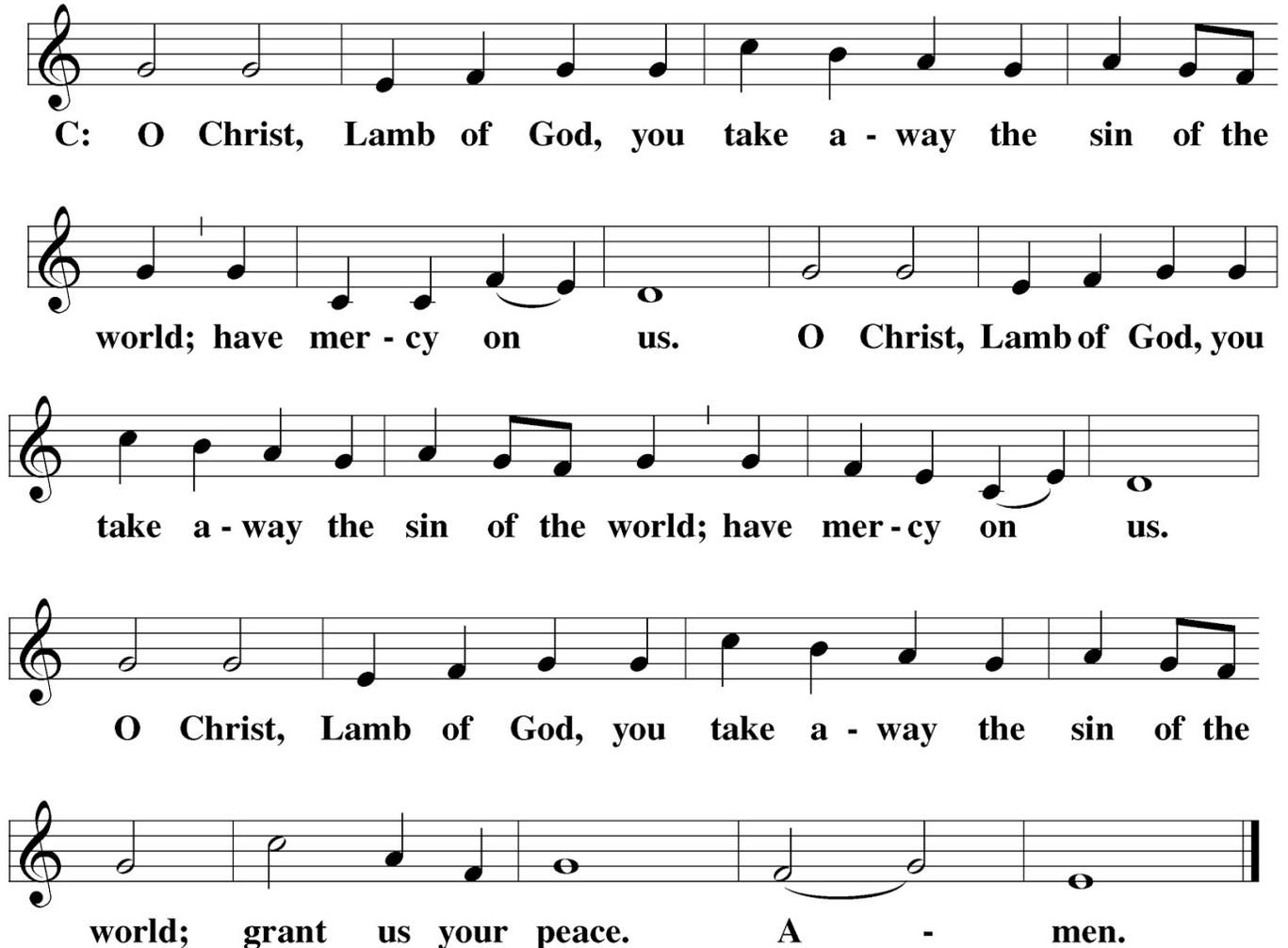
Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

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 a - way the sin of the world; grant us your peace. A - men.

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

Arise, O Christian People | 310

Please stand.

M: 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.

THE BENEDICTION

M: 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.

Be seated.

CLOSING HYMN

When All the World Was Cursed | 317 vv. 3-4

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SERVING WITH HEARTS OF LOVE

PASTOR: Rev. Adam Bode

PIANIST: Sarah Mueller

MUSICIANS: Rev. Adam Bode, Thomas Cameron, Greg Johnson, Nick & Tanya Schmidt, and Jim Van Alstine

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

OFFERINGS: 11/24, 11/25, 11/28, & 11/29 - \$18,665 (WEEKLY OFFERING GOAL - \$16,300).

OFFERINGS OF \$3,732 FOR THE GROWING FORWARD CAMPAIGN.

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.



CHURCH ATTENDANCE: THANKSGIVING 11/24: 163, 11/25: 134, 11/28 8:30 A.M.: 205, 10:30 A.M.: 134. MONDAY 6:30: 29.

In our prayers this week...

1. Thanksgiving for Cheri Hansen's mother, Agnes, recently celebrating her 103rd birthday.

This Week at a Glance:

Date	Service, Bible Study, and Class Times
Friday, December 3	St. Paul's Living Nativity 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Saturday, December 4	9:00 a.m. Christmas Service Practice St. Paul's Living Nativity 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 5	Worship Services: 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. Link to Online Weekend Worship Services
	9:15 a.m. Family Bible Hour Children's Christmas Practice, Bible Class
	St. Paul's Living Nativity 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Monday, December 6	6:00 p.m. Monday Night Worship
	7:00 p.m. Adult Choir Practice
Wednesday, December 8	8:45 a.m. Bible Study
	8:45 a.m. Mindful Moms Bible Study
	4:15 p.m. Public School Catechism
	5:30 p.m. Stewardship
	6:30 p.m. Evangelism
Thursday, December 9	6:30 p.m. LAST Hebrews Bible Study
Friday, December 10 NO SCHOOL/OFFICE CLOSED	
Saturday, December 11	9:00 a.m. Christmas Service Practice
Sunday, December 12	Christmas at St. Paul's 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. 9:15-10:15 NO Bible Class or Sunday School* *Christmas Service participants will stay for snacks/activities between services.

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **Office hours:** The office will be open Monday - Thursday from 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. The office will be closed Friday, December 10th.
2. **New Sunday Morning Bible Study** - Last weekend 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 5 and 19, we will explore the new hymnal and all it has to offer for public worship and home use. Come and learn more about this great blessing for God's people.
3. **Men's Early & Craftsmen's Bible Studies:** The next men's early study is December 17.
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. There are important rehearsals for Christmas at St. Paul's on Saturdays, December 4 and 11, from 9:00-10:30 am, as well as Sunday, December 5, during the Sunday School hour.
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. **Christmas Service Practices/Notes:** Christmas at St. Paul's is fast approaching! Here's a link to an online Google Drive folder where you can find the recitations/narrations as well as links to the service songs:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1v-JbopbcGeMQ7qv644AZqoZbR-Ca_pJdbgXX4iWKAek/edit
Here's a link to the event on Facebook. Share away, and invite friends and family to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus! <https://fb.me/e/2PSk9ZWuZ>
Important Dates/Times:
 - Saturday, December 4 - practice from 9:00-10:30 a.m. (in gym)

- Sunday, December 5 - practice from 9:15-10:15 a.m. (in gym)
- Saturday, December 11 - practice from 9:00-10:30 a.m. (in gym)
- Sunday, December 12
 - 1st-8th grade service @ 8:00 a.m.
 - 1st-8th grade arrive by 7:40 and go into Sunday School classrooms
 - PK-8th grade service @ 10:30 a.m.
 - PK & K arrive by 10:10 and go into Sunday School classroom
 - 1st-8th grade will stay between services for snacks and activities

7. **Mindful Moms** - The Mom's Night Out for December 7 has been cancelled due to scheduling conflicts. Please join us for a Bible Study focused on Advent on Wednesday, December 8 at 8:30am, and a fun Christmas themed playdate on December 15!

8. **December Communion Schedule Changes** - Since Christmas at St. Paul's occurs in the gym on what would normally be a communion weekend this year, the Elders have decided to offer communion in worship services on the 1st and 3rd weekends of December, that is December 5th-6th and December 19th-20th, as well as the normal New Years Eve Communion service, which will be held at 6:30 pm on December 31st.

9. **Christian Family Solutions:** Since last year, many more people have found themselves in need of counseling for struggles in life. Your pastors are ready to assist you with confidential guidance from God's Word. Yet some situations call for more specialized support. Christian Family Solutions (CFS) services include counseling for individuals, couples, families and substance abuse, as well as career counseling, premarital counseling, and online support groups. They have clinics in a variety of states across the country, but their ability to set up a secure video counseling session means members can still receive counseling in places where there is no clinic. St. Paul's has some funds designated to anonymously assist members with costs associated with this specialized counseling. Please speak with one of our pastors, who can help you find answers to your questions.

10. **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).

- 11. MLHS Campaign-Building Our Future On Christ:** Thank you to all who helped us achieve and exceed our goal to raise \$75,000 during the month of November! We have a final design and are moving forward with our plans. Find more information and updates about the campaign at www.mlhslancers.org/campaign, or call our mission advancement office at 920-682-0215. Thank you for your ongoing support! There are additional envelopes and info / donation forms available in the St. Paul's Member Room as well.
- 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. Marjorie Toepel Scholarships for 2021-22** have been awarded to two more students at Martin Luther College. Melina Satorius of Grace Lutheran in Falls Church, VA is passionate about teaching and looks forward to using her talents to glorify God and to influence children as her teachers influenced her. Rachel Ihlenfeld received an emergency call to teach last year at Bay Pines Lutheran in Seminole, FL and feels blessed to be back on campus to finish her degree this year.
- 14. Poinsettias for Christmas:** A CCB request went out on Friday to sign-up for a poinsettia for Christmas. The cost is \$10.50 and EXACT CASH or a check can be made out to St. Paul's. There is a designated drawer in the member room marked POINSETTIA PAYMENT. Please place your payment in an envelope and then into the marked drawer by December 10th. Poinsettias can be picked up after the last Christmas Day service. There is also a sign-up sheet in the member room if you do not have access to a computer.

- 15. Kitchen Clean-up and Maintenance:** We are looking to improve things in the kitchen and we need your help! There are pans in the kitchen, on the back counter, that do not have names on them. Please take a look and claim your pan by 12/12 otherwise they will be donated to the kitchen. Also, all things that are brought into the kitchen **MUST BE LABELED!** Examples could be items for Bible study, a church or school event, hot lunch, etc... Pastor Mueller will go through the kitchen once a week and anything that isn't labeled will be given away or thrown out. One more thing, if there is extra food from an event, please make sure to take it home, divide it with volunteer helpers, or contact Erin Radue in the office if you would like to share it with staff, give it to a family who needs it, etc... We hate to see anything go to waste! Any questions, please contact the office at 920-565-3780 or secretary@stpaulshowardsgrove.org.
- 16. 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.
- 17. Our Living Nativity was** highlighted with a nice overview article in the December issue of the Forward in Christ WELS magazine! The article is printed on the bulletin board in the commons.