

St. Paul's Lutheran Family

January 2023 NEWSLETTER

There's a Place for You at St. Paul's!



Happy New Year!

What a year this has been for us all. Well...2022 is behind us, and we look forward to a new and exciting 2023! Maybe even a slow return to normal, or at least a new normal.

Your Call Committee is in place and starting to work on our mission profile, which is an important step in calling a permanent pastor. Special thanks to the members of the committee who have been installed and started the multiple tasks needed by the Synod to call a pastor. Blessings on them.

We start this new year with hope and joy. While money remains a challenge for us (which is being experienced by many congregations), I remain hopeful that we will continue to grow with members returning after the Covid crisis we have experienced. As I have watched you in action these past couple of months, I am ever impressed in the life and vitality of St. Paul's. The kindness that I see in how people are greeted warms my heart.

Your outreach, which I see as a sign of vitality, is a reminder that we are more than a building...we are a community of God reaching out to the greater community in which we are a part.

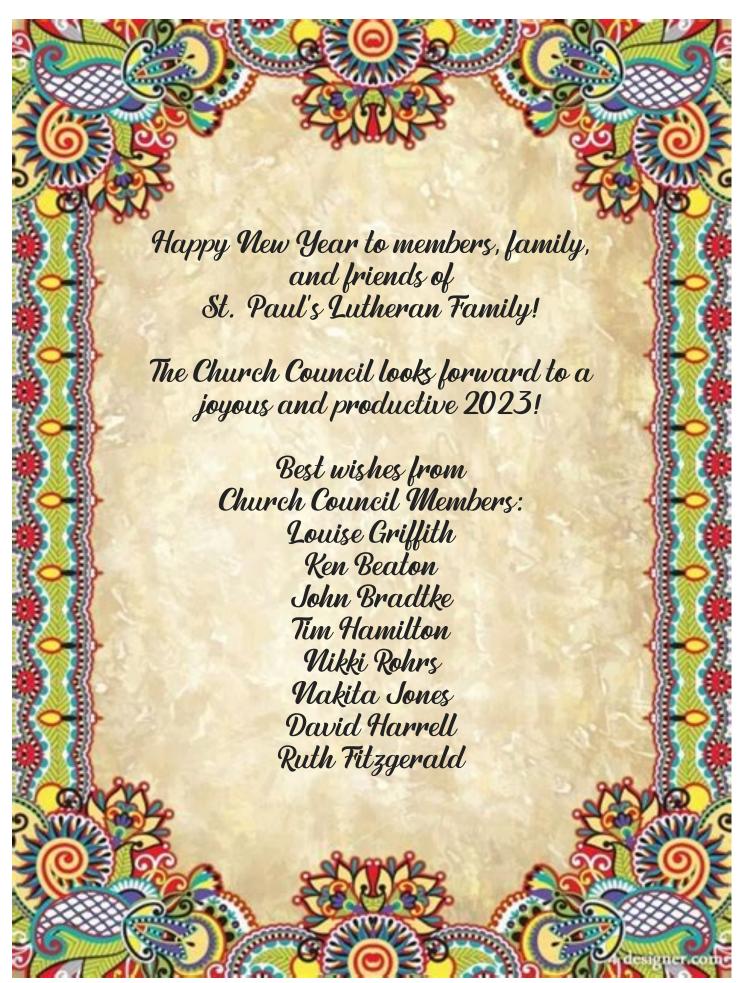
As we begin this new year, let us think about how each of us can help live out the message of love that Jesus has brought to us.

Bishop Eaton wrote a while back, "The pandemic still remains a part of our lives. We thought this would be over so long ago. And still, we wear masks; we're physically distant; we can't be with friends and family as we used to do. And also, there's so much that's broken in this world, so much that tells us, 'Why have hope? Just give up.' But we have a hope that's stronger than any of this, stronger even than death. The hope of God comes in the form of a tiny baby, a helpless child; nevertheless, who grew to a man and in his fragile strength was willing to die on the cross and was raised again. I don't know what next Christmas will bring. I don't know what New Year's will bring. But I do know we have hope. St. Paul put it this way: 'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may ABOUND IN the power of the Holy Spirit."'

I don't think I could put it better than our Bishop!

Happy New Year!

1201 Saliman Rd. Carson City, NV 89701 PO Box 20876 Carson City, NV 89721 Church Office Hours Monday, Wednesday, and Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.



Servants Serving

Aftar Guild for January

Brita Steyn and Vicki Hamilton

Greeters

January 1st Judy McPhail January 8th Nikki Rohrs January 15th Hope Chowanski January 22nd Ruth Fitzgerald January 29th Louise and Greg Griffith

Readers

January 1st Holly McPhail January 8th Ruth Fitzgerald January 15th Dorothea Phalen January 22nd Nicholas Cotsonis January 29th Hope Chowanski

Livestreaming Team

Jay Olshen, Deanna Fine, and Nick Cotsonis

Musicians

Dave Lingensjo, Principle Musician Vicki Hamilton, Organist Carol Arneson, Choir Director

Altar Guild: Vicki Hamilton victoriahamilton9@gmail.com

Greeters: Ruth Fitzgerald mrsrfitz17@gmail.com

Counters: Mary DeFelice Marenang@hotmail.com

Readers: Judy McPhail ROMAC1945@outlook.com

Ushers: Dave Harrell

davidharrell93@yahoo.com

Communion Assistants: Judy McPhail

stpaulcarson@gmail.com

Card Ministry: Peg Bradtke

fakenails@aol.com

Counters

January 1st Judy McPahil and Dave Harrell January 8th Nikki Rohrs and Jere Schultz January 15th Judy McPhail and Jeanne Russell January 22nd Jay Olshen and Linda Thronson January 29th Sharon Gesick and David Harrell

Communion Assistants

January 1st Vicki Hamilton January 8th Jeanne Russell January 15th Charlotte LaCombe January 22nd Linda Thronson January 29th Judy McPhail

Acolytes

Clay Woslum and Greg Griffith

Youth Acolytes

January 1st TBA January 8th TBA January 15th TBA January 22nd TBA January 29th TBA

Ushers

Dave Harrell, Kim Neiman, Judy McPhail, Holly McPhail, and Lorayn Walser.

Ministry Leaders

Altar Guild: Vicki Hamilton Greeters: Ruth Fitzgerald Readers: Judy McPhail Counters: Mary DeFelice

Communion Assistants: Judy McPhail

Youth Acolytes: Traci Angel Card Ministry: Peg Bradtke





Worship services are held each Sunday at 9:00 a.m. Faith L.I.N.K. (Sunday school) meets from 10:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.

Our worship service is live-streamed via YouTube.

Directions for YouTube:



Click on the hyperlink or copy and paste this link into your web browser.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/ UCujH57tQGEsCKJhKyE8q2Lg

The link will take you to St. Paul's YouTube channel where you can watch the live service.

To watch recorded services, click on "Playlist" and then choose the Sunday service/video you want to watch.

To gather with God's people in united adoration of the Father is as necessary to the Christian life as prayer. Martin Luther

We must devote, not only times and places to prayer, but be everywhere in the spirit of devotion; with hearts always set toward heaven, looking up to God in all our actions, and doing everything as His servants; living in the world as in a holy temple of God, and always worshiping Him, though not with our lips, yet with the thankfulness of our hearts, the holiness of our actions and the pious and charitable use of all His gifts. William Law

We're here to be worshippers first and workers only second. We take a convert and immediately make a worker out of him. God never meant it to be so. God meant that a convert should learn to be a worshiper, and after that he can learn to be a worker... The work done by a worshiper will have eternity in it. A.W. Tozer

The New Year is Here!

Volunteer your time and talent to St. Paul's in one of its many ministries.



FIREFIGHTERS/PEACE OFFICERS

Andy Steyn, Brian Hillenbrand, Tina Sherman, Mark Dickens, John Gould, Michael Gould, and Jason Wildblood.

SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES

Raelynn Norman (niece of Judy McPhail), Matthew Russell (nephew of Judy McPhail), Brandon Luterick, Heather Joyner (Johnson), Peter Elverum, Sarah McGee, Bryce Stimpka, Olivia Lesperance, John Duffy (nephew of Sharon and Tom Gesick), and Justin Snowden.





Please don't forget the people of Ukraine! They are fighting for their lives.

You can help with humanitarian aid via: https://www.lutheranworld.org/ and

World Kitchen wck.org

WHAT EXACTLY IS AN EPIPHANY?

The word epiphany comes from a Greek word *epiphainein*, which means "reveal." There are three meanings or usages of the word. The first is the name of a Christian feast, Epiphany, which occurs in early January. The exact day depends upon the location and the culture of the church celebrating Epiphany, but most of the time, it occurs on January 6th, which is also referred to as Twelfth Night. The Epiphany feast celebrates the revelation of God Incarnate and the visit of the Magi to the infant Jesus.

Epiphany is also used to describe any divine revelation, including Theophanies (visible appearances of God) and Christophanies (visible appearances of the pre-incarnate Christ). Many times in the Old Testament, biblical characters were visited by "the angel of the Lord," which some scholars believe to have been a pre-incarnate Christ, making all of these appearances Christophanies (Genesis 16:7-14; Genesis 22:11-18; Judges 5:23; 2 Kings 19:35). It is believed that these appearances foreshadowed the coming of Jesus Christ in human form, as "God with us" (Matthew 1:23). Other notable epiphanies include the call of Paul the Apostle on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:1-9), and the appearance of Jesus Christ to the Apostle John on the island of Patmos (Revelation 1:9 -20).

A general definition of the word epiphany, and how it is most commonly used today, is "a sudden manifestation or perception of the essential nature or meaning of something, or an intuitive grasp of reality through a simple or striking event; an illuminating discovery, realization, or disclosure or a revealing scene or moment." The root word "reveal" is still apparent in this definition. God often uses such moments of illumination to bring people to the knowledge of Himself. This illumination, or epiphany, is one of the central aspects of Christianity, for without God's intervention, none of us would see the truth. This is clearly stated in Ephesians 2:8-9, which says, "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast." We do not find God because of our upbringing, our opportunities, or our intelligence or education. We find Him because He chooses to enlighten us, to reveal Himself to us, to give us an epiphany, and to open the "eyes of our hearts" (Ephesians 1:18). https://www.compellingtruth.org/epiphany.html





Who Were the Yyagi?
By Dave Armstrong

Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11 (RSV) Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, [2] "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him." [9] When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went

before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was. [10] When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; [11] and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

The Magi were originally a Median (northwest Persian) tribe (Herodotus [*Hist.*] i.101). They performed priestly functions, perhaps due to Zoroaster *possibly* having belonged to the tribe (or belief that he did), and studied astronomy and astrology: in part likely learned from Babylon. Daniel (1:20; 2:27; 5:15) uses the word to describe "wise men" / "astrologers who interpret dreams and messages".

The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia (1915, "Magi"): states: Clement of Alexandria, Diodorus of Tarsus, Chrysostom, Cyril of Alexandria, ... and others are probably right in bringing them from Persia. Sargon's settlement of Israelites in Media (circa 730-728 BC (2 Kings 17:6)) accounts for the large Hebrew element of thought... Median astronomers would thus know Balaam's prophecy of the star out of Jacob (Numbers 24:17). That the Jews expected a star as a sign of the birth of the Messiah is clear from the tractate Zohar of the Gemara and also from the title "Son of the Star" (Bar Kokhebha) given to a pseudo-Messiah.

The Catholic Encyclopedia (1910, "Magi") adds: The sudden appearance of a new and brilliant star suggested to the Magi the birth of an important person. They came to adore him — i.e., to acknowledge the Divinity of this newborn King (vv. 2, 8, 11). It is likely, however, that the Magi were familiar with the great Messianic prophesies. Many Jews did not return from exile with Nehemias. When Christ was born, there was undoubtedly a Hebrew population in Babylon, and probably one in Persia. At any rate, the Hebrew tradition survived in Persia. We may readily admit that the Magi were led by such hebraistic and gentile influences to look forward to a Messias [Messiah] who should soon come...

To the head of this caste, Nergal Sharezar, Jeremias gives the title *Rab-Mag*, "Chief Magus" (Jeremiah 39:3, 39:13, in Hebrew original... Historians note that in Yemen, for example, there were kings who adhered to Judaism from about 120 B.C. to the sixth century A.D. Possibly, then, the wise men were Jewish or at least were strongly influenced by Jews.

No Church Father regarded them as kings. They were *not* magicians, but rather, likely Zoroastrians: a religion that actually forbade sorcery. They were astronomers and astrologers, who carefully watched the sky. In older traditions of Mesopotamia, signs in the heavens were seen as a reflection or maybe an anticipation of earthly events but not causative, in the sense of the modern pseudo-science of astrology.

The Bible doesn't mention how many Magi there were. The number three is *deduced* from the three gifts they gave (gold, frankincense, and myrrh: Matthew 2:11). Some Church Fathers refer to three wise men.

East of Palestine, only ancient Media, Persia, Assyria, and Babylonia had a Magian priesthood at the time of the birth of Christ. From some such part of the Parthian Empire the Magi came. They probably crossed the Syrian Desert, lying between the Euphrates and Syria, reached either Haleb (Aleppo) or

Tudmor (Palmyra), and journeyed on to Damascus and southward, ... We have no tradition of the precise land meant by "the east". (Catholic Encyclopedia, ibid.)

Because of Herod the Great's slaughter of children in Bethlehem up to two years old, it's deduced that Jesus was born within two years of Herod's death, and also that the wise men visited Him when he was a toddler, not a newborn. Just *how* old he was, however, is disputed.

From Persia, where it is most likely that the Magi began their journey to Jerusalem, it was between 1000 and 1200 miles. Camels are capable of carrying an extra 200 pounds and walking about 20 miles a day in a desert climate. If these figures are accurate it comes out to exactly 60 days for a 1200-mile journey. Presumably there were resting periods and side-journeys to towns to replenish supplies, etc., which would add to the length. This speculation will tie into my next two articles, where I will examine the star of Bethlehem and astronomical data.

What does it mean that the wise men saw the star "in the east" (Matthew 2:2), but then traveled west to Bethlehem? The Greek phrase, en te Anatole refers to a star rising from the horizon. I have found sixteen English Bible versions that indicate this, rather than simply reading "we have seen his star in the East" or similar (NIV / ESV / Weymouth / Moffatt / Williams / TEV / NRSV / NEB / REB / Barclay / Goodspeed / Amplified / Beck / Jerusalem / NAB / Wuest). They refer to "star when it rose" or "at its rising" or "when it came up" or "rising of his star", etc.

Starting in August, 3 BC, Jupiter rose in the east as a morning star and then came into conjunction with Venus. This started a series of six conjunctions in that year and the next: five with other planets and one with Regulus. At the end of 2 BC, always-bright Jupiter appeared to move westward, toward Jerusalem from the east. https://ewtn.co.uk/article-who-were-the-wise-men-or-magi/



What is Frankincense?

Frankincense is a dried sap from a certain tree found in the Middle East and parts of Africa. Much like tapping a Maple tree, the frankincense tree is wounded by a chisel-like tool which allows the sap to run out of the tree and dry into "tears". The sap is then collected and dried once more.

What is Frankincense used for?

According to the Bible, Frankincense was a component of holy incense for worship to God. A recipe can be found in Exodus 30:34 in which Moses was instructed to concoct for God. This was considered a pure and holy recipe containing sweet spices mixed with pure frankincense. Frankincense was found in meal offerings to God and was used to anoint high priests. There were other uses for the substance though. It was believed to be used as an anti-inflammatory and antiseptic.

Frankincense in Worship

Though the medicinal uses might be true, the wise men meant the gift to be a symbol of worship. We know the wise men believed that the child they were going to see was the Messiah spoken of by the prophets. So, believing this, they also knew that the child they were visiting was also God. The deity of Jesus was clear in the prophets, so the wise men came prepared to worship as if they were worshiping in the temple.

When burned, pure frankincense burns a beautiful white flame and emits an earthy aroma of citrus. This made the wise men believe it was a pleasing gift for God. It is noted that frankincense was not used in sacrificial rituals, but in praise and worship only. It was a substance used to praise and thank God for his holiness.

What is the Twelfth Night celebration?

January 5 marks Twelfth Night, a holiday in some branches of Christianity marking the coming of the Epiphany or the manifestation of Jesus Christ to the world and the coming of the Magi, and concluding the Twelve Days of Christmas. At the beginning of the Twelfth Night festival, a cake containing a bean was eaten.

What do you eat on the Epiphany?

It's traditional to eat a special cake called 'Rosca de Reyes' (Three Kings Cake). A figure of Baby Jesus is hidden inside the cake. Whoever has the baby Jesus in their piece of cake is the 'Godparent' of Jesus for that year.

What day do Christmas decorations come down?

Twelfth Night is a Christian festival marking the beginning of Epiphany. A count of exactly 12 days from December 25 takes us to January 5. According to the Church of England, this day is Twelfth Night. However, the day of Epiphany falls on the following day – January 6.

Why do Christmas decorations come down on 12th night?

According to tradition, Christmas trees and decorations should be taken down on either Twelfth Night or Epiphany to avoid bad luck after the season of merriment.

Is Epiphany always January 6?

Many Christians around the world annually celebrate Epiphany on January 6. It is a public holiday in many countries and marks two events in Jesus Christ's life, according to the Christian Bible. The second event was when St. John the Baptist baptized Jesus.

What does Epiphany mean in English?

- (1) a usually sudden manifestation or perception of the essential nature or meaning of something.
- (2) an intuitive grasp of reality through something (such as an event) usually simple and striking.
- (3) an illuminating discovery, realization, or disclosure.

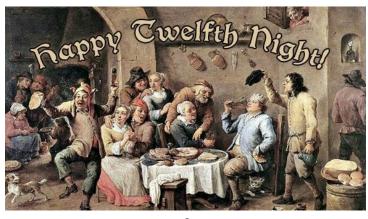
Where did the celebration of Twelfth Night originate?

Twelfth Night was a part of the year-end festivities in the British Isles and France. These celebrations originated in the 5th Century when French and English churches created the "Feast of Fools." Temporary Bishops and Archbishops of Fools play-acted, reveled, and generally caused mischief.

Where did St Francis of Assisi get the idea of the twelve nights?

In France, the Twelve Nights feature the displaying of a creche or crib. This was invented by St. Francis of Assisi in Italy on Christmas Eve, 1223 A.D. He turned a nearby cave into a stable, erected a manger and held a service.

https://profound-answers.com/what-is-the-twelfth-night-celebration/





All youth who are in the 6th through 12th grade are welcome to join youth group!

Meetings are every 1st and 3rd Sunday after Faith L.I.N.K.

If you know anyone who is interested or has any questions, please call Traci Angel at 775 721-5495.

The Youth Group was busy this Christmastide and helped make the holidays bright for children of all ages! They helped with the Children's Christmas Program and hosted Coffee Hour. They also helped Santa with distributing gifts and a party plus they stopped by some of our church family members' homes to bring a little cheer.

With all their hard work done, the youth celebrated with a lock-in and gift exchange. The youth leadership team could not be prouder of our youth for all that they do!



THANK YOU! Christmas Angel Tree



The Youth would like to extend a huge THANK YOU to all those who helped create a wonderful Christmas for ten kids in our community who were in need of Christmas. The school district social workers adopted out 275 students, and we had ten of those kids. Each child received a bag filled with items. Our amazing quilters worked overtime and so, so, so, so fast to make sure each child had a beautiful quilt! The youth shopped for what angel items were left from the donations we received. Your generosity truly made the Holiday BRIGHT!

Our youth are so grateful for all the outpouring of love!

From ALL our YOUTH, thank you for helping with the true spirit of the season! ~ Traci Angel

THE YOUTH GROUP WOULD LIKE TO WISH OUR CHURCH FAMILY A BLESSED NEW YEAR!







The Stitchers' Talented Elves







Hope Chowanski is the Superintendent of St. Paul's Christian Education. Contact Hope at 775 230-3131.







Many thanks to the children of St. Paul's and to all the volunteers who made the Children's Christmas Program possible, especially Ruth Fitzgerald, Judy McPhail, and Traci Angel.



Announcements

St. Paul's sanctuary was resplendent with beautiful poinsettias this Christmastide.

Many thanks to Vicki Hamilton for organizing the purchase of these gorgeous plants and to Marla Johnson who helped Vicki arrange them so beautifully.

We also thank Clay Woslum for setting up the creche.





STITCHERS meet in Friendship Hall the second and fourth Tuesday of each month from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Contact Sarah Jevne for more information. sarahj4821@gmail.com

WELCA Bible Study

Join us on the first
Tuesday of each
month from 9:30
a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
for a lively bible
study Vicki Hamilton
is the leader of
this wonderful group.
We look forward to
seeing you there!



Volunteers are needed to host the Coffee Fellowship Hour in 2023. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex or call the church office.

Thanks!





Please note: St. Paul's office assistant will be finishing up her 2022 vacation hours from January 9th to January 13th.

If you can find it in your hearts and your financial budgets to increase the amount of your offerings to St. Paul's in 2023, it would be greatly appreciated.

The continuation of our ministry depends on your faithful generosity.

Thank you!

And thank you to all who gave to St. Paul's in 2022.



- 3 Jessica Lunz
- 3 **James Opperman**
- 4 Nikki Rohrs
- 5 Traci Angel
- 7 **Peter Elverum**
- 7 **Judy Thoreson**
- 9 Lisa Hillenbrand
- 9 **Scott Thunder**
- 10 **Hope Chowanski**
- 13 Karen Revelle
- 14 **David Anderson**
- 20 Marla Johnson
- 20 **Clay Woslum**
- 23 **Bob Stroub**
- 25 **Greg Griffith**
- 25 **Hannelore Hanke**
- 31 **Gayle Kennett**

January's birthstone is the garnet. Its flower is the pansy.



If you would like to be part of the card writing ministry that sends greetings cards to St. Paul's homebound, please contact Peg Bradtke. fakenails@aol.com



Call Committee

The first meeting for the Call Committee took place right after the worship service on December 4th.

Our committee members are Traci Angel, Charlotte LaCombe, Cody Lopez, Jean Opperman, Jay Olshen, and Joan Schultz. Our alternates are Ken Beaton and Louise Griffith.

The team will meet twice each month. The committee selected Jay Olshen as our call process contact person.

We are in the very beginning stages of calling a new pastor to St. Paul's. This committee will be both the transition team and Call Committee. There are a few steps we must complete in the transition first, and we will update everyone as we go along in this process.

Please continue to join us by praying each night at 8:00 p.m. for our church.

Thank you! Traci Angel



Jim and I want to wish all of you at St. Paul's a Happy New Year. We think of you often and miss you.

It was great to visit with you when we were there in November. We loved hearing the choir and the message and seeing old and new faces.

We also want to thank so many of you for the notes and calls of sympathy when my sister Vicki died in December. They meant so very much to us.

Andrea and Jim Rud









HERE IT COMES! THE SPLF WELCA CHILI COOK-OFF SATURDAY FEBRUARY 11, 2023

Now that the hustle and bustle of the holidays are over, and we've had our fill of turkey, ham, and the traditional New Year's dinner, let's get our favorite chili recipe ingredients together for our WELCA chili cook-off. This *Coooold Friiiiiigid* weather is screaming for us to have some hot chili, corn bread, crackers, etc.

Along with our annual Chili Cook-off, we are keeping with tradition and having a Silent Auction along with some GREAT Entertainment. Joining us will be some new entertainers that will be making their debut this year, so bring your family and friends, relax, and please join us in an evening of fun and laughter.

Bring your best home-made chili and enter our chili cook-off contest. We have wonderful prizes for Judges' Choice and People's Choice, as well as prizes for all entrants. Soups and other dishes are always welcomed but will not be judged. The WELCA bulletin board will have a sign-up sheet for:

- Chili cook-off contestants
- Entertainers
- (3) judges to judge the chili
- Help set-up/clean-up
- Bring side dishes- i.e. salads, casseroles/soups, desserts
- ◆ Condiments to compliment the chili i.e. shredded cheese, chopped onions, breads, crackers etc.

We know there are some great entertainers in our midst, so please join the fun and sign-up with Hope Chowanski. 775 230-3131

If you would like to donate items for our Silent Auction, please contact Sharon Gesick at 775 443-8744.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

LOCATION: ST PAUL'S LUTHERAN FAMILY
DATE: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2023
TIME: 4:00PM UNTIL????? (TIMES BELOW ARE APPROXIMATE)

1:00 PM - Set-Up TABLES, ETC.

4:00 PM - Chili entries due at church

4:30 PM - Chili judging

5:30 PM - DINNER

6:00 PM - PEOPLE'S Choice judging

6:00 PM - 1st HALF OF ENTERTAINMENT

6:30 PM - CHILI AWARD PRESENTATION

7:00 PM - 2nd HALF OF ENTERTAINMENT

Thanks!
See you at the Chili Cook-off!
Linda Wilson and the



Cats 'n Dogs



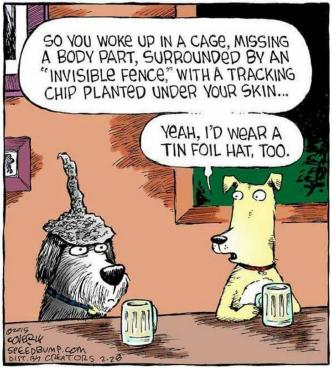






















Sunday Services 9:00 a.m. January 1st, January 8th, January 15th, January 22nd, and January 29th

Faith L.I.N.K. 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Youth Group Meeting
First and third Sunday after Faith L.I.N.K.

Sundays NA 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 1st New Year's Day

Monday, January 2nd Church office closed

Monday, January 16th Church office closed for MLK Day

Tuesday, January 3rd WELCA Bible Study 9:30 a.m.

Tuesday, January 10th and January 24th Stitchers 9:00 a.m. – noon

Every Wednesday

Choir practice when in session 6:00 p.m. Contact Carol Arneson for more info.

Thursday, January 5th Twelfth Night

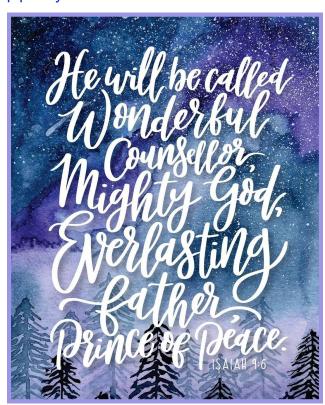
Thursdays during the school year beginning January 12th

Carson Strings practices in Friendship Hall 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 12th Executive Meeting 6:00 p.m. via Zoom

Thursday, January 19th Council Meeting 6:00 p.m.

Friday, January 6th Epiphany



If you have an event, birthday, anniversary, graduation, or any other special occasion you'd like to have published in the newsletter, please send the information to the church office by the 21st of each month unless otherwise noted. Regularly contributed articles are due then as well.

Thanks!

Please note: If submissions are not made by the requested deadline date articles/photos will go into the next month's newsletter.