

St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School
624 Jennings St. Sioux City, Iowa 51101
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www.siouxcitystpauls.org



**“YOU ALSO MUST BE READY,
FOR THE SON OF MAN IS COMING AT
AN HOUR YOU DO NOT EXPECT.”**

LUKE 12:40, ESV

*6 p.m. Friday, December 31, 2021
Sermon: “Teach Us to Number Our Days”*



St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School

- a Family to Whom You Belong -

Our Mission is to: **Make More & Better Disciples**

NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE

(6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 31, 2021)

Servants of God's House

Pastor: Rev. Kenny Hsu **DCE Intern:** Grace Wolfram

Organist: 6 p.m. **Usher:** Nick Gunn

Missionaries: Rev. Shauen & Krista Trump, Rev. Tim & Lisa Beckendorf,
Rev. Paul Flo, Rev. Charles Cortwright

Readers: 6 p.m.

WELCOME! We are glad that you are here worshipping God with us. We pray for God's blessings to you and invite you to come back again soon.

AS WE GATHER In various communities throughout the world, New Year's Eve is referred to as "Watch Night." It is not uncommon to find followers of Jesus gather in homes and in churches on this night to "keep watch" and pray as one year ends and another year arrives. Some say that these traditions date back to December 31, 1862, when enslaved Christians trimmed their lamps and, with great anticipation, waited for the clock to strike midnight. At the stroke of midnight, the Emancipation Proclamation of President Abraham Lincoln went into effect, and many slaves would celebrate their newfound freedom. As we gather with fellow believers tonight, we reflect on the year that is nearly over and the one that is soon to begin. Just as our gracious Savior was faithful in the past, He will remain with us in the coming year. Let us also keep watch and, with great anticipation, be ready for His appearing and the salvation He comes to bring.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP Eternal God, we commit to Your mercy and forgiveness the year now ending and commend to Your blessing and love the times yet to come. In the New Year, abide among us with Your Holy Spirit that we may always trust in the saving name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Worship Service

(The congregation is invited to respond with the words written in **bold**.)

The Ringing of the Bells

The Wave of Fellowship

The Invocation *Matthew 28:19b; (18:20)*

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

(The sign of the cross + may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.)

Opening Sentences

P: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,

C: the light no darkness can overcome.

P: Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,

C: and the day is almost over.

P: Let Your light scatter the darkness

C: and illumine Your Church.

Hymn of Invocation

“Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying”

LSB 516

(stand as you are able for the last verse)

The Collect of the Day “Thanksgiving for Light” *LSB*, p. 245

P: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of the universe, who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ;

C: may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path;

P: for You are merciful, and You love Your whole creation and we, Your creatures, glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Psalm *Psalm 141:1–4, 8–10*

P: O LORD, I call upon You; hasten to me!

C: Give ear to my voice when I call to You!

P: Let my prayer be counted as incense before You,

C: and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice!

P: Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth;

C: keep watch over the door of my lips!

P: Do not let my heart incline to any evil, to busy myself with wicked deeds in company with men who work iniquity,

C: and let me not eat of their delicacies!

P: But my eyes are toward You, O GOD, my Lord; in You I seek refuge; leave me not defenseless!

P: Keep me from the trap that they have laid for me and from the snares of evildoers!

**C: Let the wicked fall into their own nets, while I pass by safely.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Salutation

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.

Eternal God, we commit to Your mercy and forgiveness the year now ending.

C: We commend to Your blessing and love the times yet to come.

P: In the new year, abide among us with Your Holy Spirit

C: that we may always trust in the saving name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

P: who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Psalm Psalm 90:1–12

P: Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations.

C: Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting You are God.

P: You return man to dust and say, "Return, O children of man!"

C: For a thousand years in Your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night.

P: You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning:

C: in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.

P: For we are brought to an end by Your anger; by Your wrath we are dismayed.

C: You have set our iniquities before You, our secret sins in the light of Your presence.

P: For all our days pass away under Your wrath; we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

C: The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.

P: Who considers the power of Your anger, and Your wrath according to the fear of You?

C: So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

The Epistle Reading

Romans 8:31b–39

(Nothing can separate you from God's love in Christ.)

³¹...If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

³⁶As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

³⁸For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Reading

Luke 12:35–40

(Keep your lamps burning as you watch for the Son of Man to come.)

³⁵[Jesus said:] "Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, ³⁶and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks.

³⁷Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! ³⁹But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. ⁴⁰You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Stand as you are able)

Hymn of the Day "Across the Sky the Shades of Night"

LSB 899

Sermon "Teach Us to Number Our Days"

Offering of God's People to their Beloved Savior

We honor God with the gifts He has given to us.

St. Paul's members have pledged to support our ministry in their tithes and offerings.

Please place your offerings in the box upfront.

To our guest: Thank you for joining us today and please do not feel that you are obligated to participate. We invite you to come back again.

Please put your **Welcome Card** in the box at the back of the church.

Romans 12:13—Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

Offertory Hymn "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" LSB 733 1-4

(stand as you are able)

Prayer of the Church

P: In peace let us keep watch and pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us keep watch and pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us keep watch and pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us keep watch and pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For all leaders in our family of faith, and for all who proclaim the love of God in Christ Jesus, our Lord, let us keep watch and pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For our country, for all nations of the world, and for all who lead and govern us in the new year that is soon to come, let us keep watch and pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For those who work to bring peace to the troubled, justice to the oppressed, and freedom to the captives, let us keep watch and pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For our families and our children, for our loved ones wherever they may be, that they rest in our Savior's constant care, let us keep watch and pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:

C: Alleluia.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

(Silent prayer to reflect on God's faithfulness in the past year and His promise to remain with us in the year that is to come.)

P: Rejoicing in the fellowship of the saints, let us keep watch and commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord:

C: To You, O Lord.

Collect For Peace

P: O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness as we keep watch for Your reappearing; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Benediction

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

P: Thanking God for His faithfulness in the year now past, let us enter into the New Year confident of His blessing:
The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C: Amen.

The Closing Hymn "Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise" LSB 917

Silent Prayer

Postlude

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St. Paul's Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod)

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| Worship Services | Traditional (Sat., 6:00 p.m. & Sun., 8:15 a.m.) Contemporary Service (10:45 a.m.) |
| Sunday School: | 9:30 a.m. |
| Youth & Adult Bible Classes | 9:30 a.m. |
| Pastor: | Rev. Kenneth Hsu |

Announcements for St. Paul's

DISCIPLE TRAINING HOUR-9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. There will not be any

education hour classes on **Sunday, Jan. 2** **Adult Bible Class** normally will meet in the Church basement with Pastor. Kenny, studying the Book of Concord, the Augsburg Confession.

Sunday School: Our next class will resume on **Jan. 9**

Lesson of the Day normally will meet in the school lunchroom with Frank Tenuta.

LWML Mites offering will be placed on the table in the back of the church on the first weekend of every month. Please remember to bring your little mites boxes and add them to the LWML offering box. Your donations are appreciated and goes towards missions.

Funeral Services for Lowell Chelley:

Sunday, January 2 from 5-8 p.m. there will be a visitation at Meyer Brothers Morningside Chapel. No prayer service. **Monday, January 3** at 10:30 a.m. the funeral will be at St. Paul's with a luncheon in the school gym following the funeral and the committal service at Memorial Park Cemetery following the luncheon.

St. Paul's Church and School Annual Fund Drive Comes to an End We are pleased to announce that we have hit our goal of

\$50,000. This week we raised \$13,361 bringing us to a total of \$51,051! We would like to give all glory to God from whom all blessings flow. Thank you for your kind and generous gifts which will allow us to continue to bring Christian education to the children of Siouxland this coming year!

Homework Huddle and Confirmation

Classes: will be on break and will not meet again until **Wednesday, January 5.**

January Newsletter is available in the back of the church, or online, or on the church app. The website has a link to the newsletter on both the **Home** page and the **News** page at **www.siouxcitystpauls.org**.

Friends of Christ: Soup and Pie dinner with

a white elephant gift exchange on **January 23** at Faith Lutheran at 2:00 p.m.

2022 Offering Envelops: Are now available in the Narthex area of the church. Please stop by and pick yours up. If there is any information incorrect on your envelopes or you did not receive your envelopes, please contact Dana at the Church office.

2021 Year-End Giving Statements: will be available by January 31 at the latest. If you need them earlier, please contact Dana at the Church office.

Lutheran Witness Magazine Renewal: If you are interested in renewing your magazine subscriptions or starting a new subscription, please contact Dana at the church office. The cost for 11 issues of the Lutheran Witness Magazine is \$22.68. Please have your payment to the office by **Sunday, Feb. 27**. The magazine will be mailed directly to you.

NEIGHBORS

The LCMS Office of National Mission

invites you to register for the Making Disciples for Life January 2022 hybrid conference The Rock in Shifting Sands. As a hybrid conference, sessions will be held in-person (in St. Louis) and online (wherever you are) on **January 10 –12, 2022** at 1333 S. Kirkwood Rd., National Mission, St. Louis, MO 63122-7226

Camp Okoboji: CAMP REGISTRATION

OPENS DECEMBER 15! From December 15 -January 15, all summer registrations have the 20% Christmas Rate Discount! Go to www.campokoboji.org for more information.

FAMILY ICE FISHING RETREAT For

families of all sizes and ages who love to fish or want to learn can come to this weekend retreat on **January 28-30**. Pastor Ben Dose of Zion - Arcadia & Pastor Jim Stogdill of Messiah - Johnston will be our Bible Study leaders.

WINTER GAMES FAMILY FUNFEST Join us from 10:00A.M. to 2:00P.M. on **Saturday, January 29** for some Family Winter Fun during the University Of Okoboji Winter Games. A meal will be available.