



Paul Owens, Senior Pastor

Emmanuel

One of the most dastardly tricks that the devil pulled on so many of us this year was to get us stuck in the monologue of the self, that anxious voice that ascends and runs around in your conscience. Egged on by the Accuser's coaching, that voice gets you anxious about the virus, about your life or death... about what you will eat or wear... about whether there will be enough toilet paper to clean your backside.

Well, the Lord Jesus shows up not just in swaddling clothes, but fresh from the cross and the grave, to rescue you and me from this monologue... with a promise.

The promise? That he is *Emmanuel*, "God with us"... with us not just in the morning when the sun is nice and bright, but with us in the deepest dark of night. With us throughout 2020, 2021, and all the way until he brings this old, decaying world to its end. And there is even more to his promise: he is not with us as some product of your feelings or your thoughts, nor Oprah, nor Buddha, nor your self-esteem... he is with us as **Jesus**, the one whose very name speaks the promise: "God saves." He is with you not in the scorekeeping of your sins... but in the forgiveness of them.

Even though Christ has won the victory, the monologue of your self doesn't give up easily. So, let's sing together:

*Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lowly exile here
Until the Son of God appear.*

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Paul



David Doss, President

'Tis the Season

It's Advent. Christmas and the New Year are upon us. I think there are a lot of folks looking forward to the year 2020 being behind us and imagining the year 2021 being a lot more user friendly than the previous.

Isn't that what Advent and Christianity are all about? It's the knowing, hope, and optimism that the best is yet to come. As Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem, they trusted God. Don't you think Mary may have been a tad bit uncomfortable, being 9 months pregnant and having to travel 90 miles along rough roads from Nazareth to Bethlehem? And then, when they arrived at their destination the only place in town left to stay was a stable. They couldn't even get a room at The Roadway Inn.

Advent is a time where we are reminded to strive to have the temperament of Mary and Joseph. Trusting in God, we know a new and brighter day is ahead. They knew Jesus, our Savior was coming. What we know is that Jesus is here!! He has with Him everything we need.

Merry Christmas to all!

As a Christ-centered, Gospel-driven Congregation, we are called by our Lord Jesus to go and make disciples of all nations. We will be a congregation that engages people in order to help families follow Jesus.



Chip Reynolds, Pastor

Does anyone else struggle with being a compassionate person while driving on I-35? I am hoping that it is not just me. I know that I am not the “best version of myself” when someone is either zipping in and out of traffic without a blinker or cuts me off in a work zone. I get totally frustrated with their lack of awareness of other people (namely me!)

But then I choke down the desire to scream at them (fully knowing they won’t hear me anyway) and I have started trying to have other responses:

1. Maybe there is something going on in their world that is causing them to rush.
2. Maybe I was being frustrating and I need to change lanes.
3. Dear Lord...

I have found in the last few days that as people and situations threaten my way of being or way of thinking, I have to really change my approach. And there is no better change than to start praying. I think about Job sitting under a tree in lament after losing everything and what does he do: he prays. He stops and says “God, I don’t get it and I probably won’t, but you are God and you love me and I know you have me.” He turns it over to God and leaves it there because no matter what Job knows, he knows that he is not in control, God is!

So, be it driving on I-35, or election results, or any other thing that disrupts my life and I want to get angry about it, I pray. I pray that God gives me peace. I pray that God’s will be done. And I pray that others hear God’s voice in their lives. (And I don’t pray that everyone believes like me...that is just a little too arrogant to believe that I have it all figured out and everyone else is wrong and I am right. SO, I pray that God does God’s work in their lives.)

And hopefully in my prayers, I will be changed for the better. And maybe.... just maybe.... other people will learn to drive better and I won’t even be tempted to get angry at them. I know...wishful thinking.

In His arms,

PC

We are having a birthday party for Jesus and you and your family are invited! This special celebration will tell of Jesus’ birth. Crafts, games and snacks with tons of fun!

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY,
JESUS!**

***Saturday, December 5
10:00 a.m.
Fellowship Hall***

Rsvp at <https://www.nbstpaul.org/faith-formation/children/>



Ladies are invited to join us as we celebrate Christ's birth and the friendship of Christian women through Advent by Candlelight on Sunday, December 6 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We have selected Options for Life to receive our charitable donations. Please consider donating diapers, baby wipes, crib sheets, newborn clothes or a monetary donation. Bring a friend, sister, mom, or daughter and enjoy this time of fellowship.

RSVP at <https://www.nbstpaul.org/faith-formation/adults/>



December Altar Flowers

December 6 - Eldon & Pam Henderson
December 13 - Garth & Angela Bielke
December 20 - James & Pam Walls
December 27 - Glenn & Muriel Ostberg

December Wednesday Evenings:



December 2

5:30 p.m. - Dinner - Beef stroganoff, peas and carrots, bread, and fruit salad

6:30 p.m. - Worship

December 9

5:30 p.m. - Dinner - Taco Soup with all the fixings, cornbread with honey butter, tossed Salad, and eggnog pudding

6:30 p.m. - Worship

December 16 – Snack food night

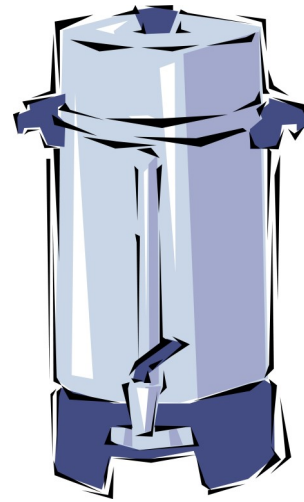
5:30 p.m. - Chicken nuggets, pigs-in-a-blanket, pizza, caprese salad spears, veggie tray with dip, chips or pretzels

6:30 p.m. - Go out caroling

SOS Foodbank

The S.O.S. Foodbank is in need of bags of dried pinto beans (one or two pound size bags). Small white beans are also welcomed, as well as other imperishable items.

Please Place donations in the box in the Lobby. Thank you for your generosity!



December Coffee Crew

December 6 - Jackie McEathran
 December 13 - Cindy Orsak/Kay Magness
 December 20 - Glen & Leslie Wellbrock
 December 27 - Harvey & Erna Haas

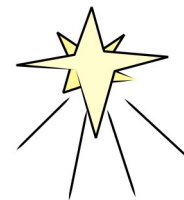
Lutheran World Relief

What a success we had starting the evening of November 4. The Wednesday night Youth Group helped move 57 boxes from upstairs to the gym. So many volunteers showed up at the church on November 7 to help put those boxes of quilts onto trailers to be transported to St. John's Lutheran Church in Marion. The total weight was 1,082 pounds with 290 quilts. Thank you one and all!!!

A big thank you to Cindy Orsak who donated sheets to the quilters. We often use sheets as batting if we run out of purchased batting. One of those sheets she donated was King sized and was cut into (9) tot cot covers for the St. Paul Preschool. When we count our blessings Cindy, we count you twice.

The St. Paul Quilters meet every Tuesday morning at 9:00 a.m. in Room 210. Drop by sometime, we always have room.

Children's Christmas Program



Song of the Stars
Sunday, December 13
 (during 10:30 service)

Rehearsal Schedule in the Sanctuary:

Wed., Dec. 2nd at 5:00-5:30 p.m.
 Sat., Dec. 5th at 9:00-9:45 a.m.
 Wed., Dec. 9th at 5:00-5:30 p.m.
 Sun., Dec. 13th at 9:15-9:30 a.m.

Senior Pastor - Rev. Paul Owens - pastorpaul@nbstpaul.org
Pastor - Rev. Chip Reynolds - currently deployed until November 2020
Executive Director of Operations & Preschool - Michelle Rivera - michelle@nbstpaul.org
Communications Coordinator - Jennifer Burrows - jennifer@nbstpaul.org
Bookkeeper/Controller - Stacy Garcia - stacy@nbstpaul.org
Director of Music & Creative Arts - Jody Noblett - jody@nbstpaul.org
F3 Ministry Manager - Kimberly Wunderlich - Kimberly@nbstpaul.org
Organist - Ann Brown - annb003@aol.com
Staff - Alison Setser - alison@nbstpaul.org
Multi-Media Staff - Lorrie Cook - lorrie@nbstpaul.org
CHURCH OFFICE (830) 625-9191
PRESCHOOL (830) 625-2044
FAX (830) 620-7715

December 2020



www.nbstpaul.org

Sunday morning worship at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.

9:15 a.m. Bible Study Hour

We are continuing to live stream both services on our website, Face Book and YouTube.



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