

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH:

Pastor - Rev. Paul Krentz Church (952) 955-1498, Home (952) 955-5097
Preaching Assistant - Rev. Gerald Schwanke 1-320-282-9838

CHRIST COMMUNITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL:

Principal - Jeff Boehlke (952) 955-1419

LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL:

Executive Director - Joel Landskroener (952) 657-2251

MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICE DECEMBER 7, 2011

WELCOME to all who are visiting today! Our greatest desire is to share that wonderful message of forgiveness and eternal salvation for all in Jesus' name. We pray you will be drawn closer to Christ as the Holy Spirit nurtures us through God's Word in this service. Before you leave, please, take time to sign our guest register in the entrance way, and we hope you will join us every week as we gather as God's family in worship.

WELCOME

INVOCATION:

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

C. AMEN.

P. The second candle on an Advent wreath is sometimes known as the Bethlehem candle.

C. REMINDING US THAT IN BETHLEHEM, THE SAVIOR JESUS CAME INTO THE WORLD.

P. As Jesus came into Bethlehem,

C. WE NEED HIM TO COME INTO OUR HEARTS AND LIVES TODAY.

P. So we pray,

C. COME, LORD JESUS. DWELL IN US. RULE IN US AS SAVIOR AND LORD. AMEN.

HYMN: #66 "Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes"

PRAYER

ADVENT MEDITATION: Preparing for Christmas: Part II "It's a Matter of Faith"

(An outline with the Scripture reading is printed in the bulletin to aid your meditation on God's Word)

stpaulswatertown.org

ccls.net

lhsmayer.mn.org

CONFESSION: *(Spoken together)*

Lord, we come to you as people who are separated from you because of our sin. We need our broken relationship with you restored. To make that possible you sent your only Son Jesus into the world as our Savior. Through faith in him we are reunited with you. Yet we cannot by our own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ or even come to him. So by the power of your Holy Spirit, who works in our hearts through your word, create and preserve in us true saving faith. Amen.

HYMN: "Now Sing We, Now Rejoice" (LW #47)

1. Now sing we, now rejoice With heart and soul and voice. Life's most precious treasure Here poor in manger lies; He brings purer pleasure Than sunlight from the skies. Christ is born today! Christ is born today!
2. God's Son, come from above, Your grace and saving love To my spirit bringing, O pure and holy Child, Fill my heart with singing For grace so great and mild. Draw me, Lord, to you! Draw me, Lord, to you!

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

OFFERING + RITE OF FELLOWSHIP

(Please sign fellowship book at end of pew.)

SONG: "Change My Heart, O God"

(Is 64:8 Yet, O LORD, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.)

Chorus: Change my heart, Oh God, make it ever true; Change my heart, Oh God, may I be like You.

Verse: You are the Potter, I am the clay; Mold me and make me, this is what I pray.

(chorus, verse, chorus)

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PRAYER:

P. Keep coming to us, Lord Jesus, our Savior and King.

C. COME INTO OUR HEARTS, CLEANSE THEM. COME INTO OUR MINDS, ENLIGHTEN THEM.

P. Come dwell with us in our church.

C. COME LIVE WITH US IN OUR FAMILIES.

P. Comfort us when we are sick,...*(special prayers)*...cheer us when we are lonely; strengthen us when we are tempted;

C. SETTLE US WHEN WE ARE TROUBLED; REFRESH US WHEN WE ARE TIRED; RENEW US WHEN WE FALL.

P. Keep coming to us, Lord Jesus, our Savior and King.

C. TOUGH US WITH YOUR FORGIVENESS; HEAL US WITH YOUR LOVE;
INSTRUCT US WITH YOUR WORD; GUIDE US WITH YOUR SPIRIT. AMEN.

THE LORD'S PRAYER: *(Spoken together)*

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 BLESSING

HYMN: #91 "Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord" vs.1-4, 9

ANNOUNCEMENTS + POSTLUDE

SERVICES SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER:

Sunday, December 11th – 8:00am Worship Service
10:30am Christmas Cantata
7:00pm Christmas Cantata

Wednesday, December 14th – 1:30pm CCLS Christmas Service at CCLS
7:00pm CCLS Christmas Service at CCLS

Sunday, December 18th – 8:00am Worship Service
10:30am Sunday School Service

Wednesday, December 21st – NO WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

Saturday, December 24th – 5:00pm Christmas Eve Worship
7:00pm Christmas Candlelight Service

Sunday, December 25th – 9:00am Christmas Worship

Saturday, December 31st – NO New Years Eve Worship

Advent: Preparing for Christmas - Part II

"It's a Matter of Faith!"

Scripture References:

Mark 1:15; Matthew 27:3-5; Acts 10:43; Luke 2:10-11; John 3:17

1. While being sorry for our sins is important, just being sorry _____
_____.
2. How does Jesus' death on the cross and resurrection help us if we don't believe?
3. Why did Judas hang himself after betraying Jesus?
4. When does the forgiveness Jesus bought on the cross with his blood become our own?
5. What would Christmas be like if we didn't believe Jesus was coming as a Savior?
6. What does it mean to "personalize" the message of Christmas?
7. Why is "personalizing" the message of Christmas so important?