



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Good Neighbor Parish Newsletter

St Paul Lutheran Church Herington KS
Hebron Lutheran Church Burdick KS
Website: stpaulheringtonkansas.com
Church Office Phone: 785-358-3430
Pastor Jim Peters Cell: 785-215-3535

December 2023

Hebron News

December Events:

**No worship service at Hebron Sunday,
Dec. 24.**

Christmas morning Julotta worship
service Monday, Dec. 25, 7:00 AM

Prayer concerns:

Bruce Hedstrom, Glen Knuth, Tom Cain,
Bob Novak, Ethan Lif, Kinsley Shoup,
Lisa Hanschu, Randy Mai, Pastor Bill &
Judy Peterson

Homebound: Naomi Nelson, Roger
Peterson, Jewell Swinney, Hallie Novak,
Maxine Barton

Service Men & Women: Joe Towey, Brett
Talkington, Braden Pagenkopf

We pray for all men & women in the
armed forces serving our country
throughout the world.



2023 HEBRON COUNCIL

Tana Riffel - President - 785-258-0131
Amber Peterson - Secretary - 785-366-6721
Connie Johnson - Treasurer - 785-466-6465
Tom Remy - Finance Sec - 785- 983-4828
Andy Carlson - 785-466-6571

Birthdays

5 Kelli Salazar
7 Denice Hageberg
9 Savannah Hicks
9 John Richard
11 Roger Peterson
18 Nannette Forsberg
19 Maureen Peterson
26 Suzie Martin
27 Deena Abbott
27 Carol Riffel
29 Aubren Ecklund
30 Randy Ecklund



Anniversaries

8 John & Adriane Richard
31 Marvin and Michelle Peterson

Hebron WELCA met on Thursday Nov. 16, at the home of Nancy Hanson. Those attending were Delores Fisher, Nancy Hanson, Gloria Martin, and Carol Riffel. Carol opened with devotion "Come & Follow Me".

Carol presented the bible study "Holy Places – Pilgrimage – the journeys we take to a holy place or for a holy purpose, and the promise that God meets us along the way ". We are looking for the places where we can be assured of finding Jesus and feeling his presence with us. Pilgrimage is grounded in our relationships to other people. Jesus tells us to trust that in going where he sends us, he will be with us and we will find what we need.

Carol read the minutes of the last meeting and Delores shared the treasurer's report. She sent \$150 to Central States Synod WELCA. We served drinks, cake & cookies after the burial at Hebron cemetery for Jean Ecklund on Sat. Nov. 11.

Gloria reminded everyone of our plans for the Advent/Christmas season. We will decorate the church on Sun. Nov. 26, after worship. A pizza lunch will be provided by Thrivent. We all volunteered to make dessert. We will donate clothing, school supplies, and monetary gifts to the Centre Schools before Christmas. We will remember our shut-ins Naomi, Roger, Jewell, Hallie, and Maxine with a plate of cookies. Pizza Hut gift cards will be given to our college students Jensen and Kyle. A Christmas gift will be purchased for Pastor and his family. Carol is in charge of getting the Poinsettias.

We made our hostess schedule for 2024 and talked about Altar Guild.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. Next meeting will be Jan. 18, 2:00 PM at the home of Gloria Martin. Gloria will lead the Bible Study.

Hebron Church Council met on Mon. Nov. 20, 2023, in the church basement. Those present were Andy Carlson, Connie Johnson, Amber Peterson, Tana Riffel, Tom Remy, and Pastor Peters.

Meeting opened with a prayer led by Pastor Peters. Secretary minutes were read by Amber and approved.

Pastor Peters gave his Pastoral report of communion calls/visits, hospital visits, and the baptism at Hebron for Kendall Coleman. He thanked the church for the approval and response for the prayers for healing and thanked everyone for attending the meeting with Pastor Peter Rehwaldt concerning the Pastoral call. Pastor shared his schedule for the week of Christmas.

Connie shared the treasurer's report. As of Nov. 2023, \$18,000 has been deposited to the Good Neighbor Parish for the year. A letter was received from the insurance company stating a 1% increase for wind and hail damage.

Council decided that Hebron will not have worship service on Sunday, Dec. 24. Christmas morning Julotta service will be Monday, Dec. 25, at 7:00 AM.

Christmas Tree/Church Decorating will be Sun. Nov. 26th after worship. Phil & Jamie Peterson will get the live tree for the church.

Hebron will again donate \$500 each to Dickinson County Family Resource Exchange, Marion County Food Bank and Morris County Care and Share.

There was discussion about getting a second headset microphone. Council is still waiting on a second bid on replacing the window damaged at the parsonage.

Connie stated that all the old tables and chairs have been delivered to Pilsen Packrats and the basement class room looks much better. Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. Next meeting Jan. 15, 2024 at 7:00 PM.

From the Pastor

I have fond memories from my childhood of winter evenings in my parents' home. On some evenings, my Dad would build a fire in the fireplace that was in our living room. Then, after dinner, we would gather around that fire. Sometimes, we would just watch the flames. Sometimes, we would talk. And sometimes, there would be stories.

Sometimes, those stories would take the form of what I call a "continuing story." The way it worked was very simple. One person would begin the story, and then stop. Then the next person would pick up the threads of that story and continue it. The story would pass from person to person, always growing along the way. You could never tell what was going to happen or what crazy characters or family members might turn up as a part of the story. I remember that there was always a lot of laughter as the stories started to veer off course, going off in unexpected directions. After the story had made a couple of rounds around the room, someone would bring it to a conclusion.

For years, I have enjoyed the thought of the season of Advent as a season of stories. We come in from the cold on these Sunday December mornings, and we tell stories. Wondrous stories that help us to look forward to the coming of Christmas and the coming of the Savior at the end of time. Stories that speak to us about God coming to be with us, of God among us, of the fullness of grace and truth living in our very midst. In the midst of hard times, hope is proclaimed, and the peace of God comes in unexpected images like the wolf and the lamb eating together and the lion eating straw like an ox (Isaiah 11).

You might think that these stories aren't really like the continuing stories I described above at all, because they've all been written down in a book. But every year, these same stories speak to us in new ways, if only we open our eyes and ears and hearts to them. And when you do that, you can never tell what will happen. For God's word is active and alive among us, and it always stretches us in ways that we don't expect.

This December, on Sunday mornings, I'd like to invite you to come in from the cold and share these stories with us. And when you do, to open your heart to them and allow them to reach into your life like never before. And then, come Christmas Eve and Christmas morning, to allow the stories of those times to do the same thing.

Elie Wiesel famously once wrote, "God made man because God loves stories." For me, that means that God must love this time of the year as much as we do. Because God wants us to keep telling the stories.

I wish you a joyous holiday that is full of good stories—family stories told around the fire, but also the wonderful stories we will share from the scriptures. Let God's continuing story touch your heart and fill this season with his light.

Have a great Advent and a Merry Christmas!

Pastor Jim



Children's Program.....

Everyone is invited to come Sunday, December 17th when the Sunday School children will perform their Christmas program at St Paul at the 11:00 am. worship service. Be sure to tell your friends and family members.



Gold Pot in November brought in \$94.60 for the needs of the church.



December Meals on Wheels Delivery is December 4 – 8th. Can you help?

Christmas Eve Services 2023

It takes almost every one of our lay servants to pull this off. If you are a greeter or usher, acolyte, musician, communion assistant, or reader and will not be able to help on Christmas eve, please let Marcia know as soon as possible.

\$\$\$\$\$ Treasurer's Report \$\$\$\$\$

October 31, 2023

Contributions

Expected: \$135,315.00
Actual : \$118,527.42

Expenses:

Expected: \$135,315.00
Actual: \$109,009.10

Pilgrimage of the Light
Come Experience the Meaning of Christmas

Sunday, December 3rd,
6-7:30 p.m. Vehicles Only
7:30-8:00 p.m. Pedestrians Only
Father Padilla Park, Herington, KS

Multiple area Churches are involved.
Visitors can donate food for the Family Resource Exchange at the entrance.

Living re-enactments from events surrounding the birth of our Savior

Last day to order poinsettias for the altar is December 10th.

Annual Meeting of the Congregation at
St Paul

Will be January 28th immediately following worship. All voting members are asked to attend.

Voting Members:

Exactly what is a voting Member??

Voting members are confirmed members. Such confirmed members, during the current or preceding year, shall have communed in this congregation and shall have made a contribution of record to this congregation. Members of this congregation who have satisfied these basic standards shall have the privilege of voice and vote at every regular and special meeting of the congregation as well as the other rights and privileges ascribed to voting members by the provisions of the church constitution and by laws.

New Members

We have several people who are not officially St. Paul members.

Pastor will be having a meeting with these people to discuss what it means to be a member and decide upon a Sunday for them to officially join the church if they would like to do so. Please let the office know if you are interested in becoming a member.

Save the date

for the 80th birthday celebration for Shirley Meyer and 85th birthday for Frank Meyer at from 2:00-4:00p.m. at Broadway Station on Pastor Jim January 14th, 2024.

Random Acts of Kindness

Our December Gold Pot Offering will be used to help local families with high utility bills or immediate financial needs. No cash will be given by St. Paul but assistance with food, shelter medical or utilities. Please prayerfully consider how you can help.



Holiday Home Tour is Sunday , December 10th from 2:00-5:30 p.m. This is an annual fundraiser for the Herington Revitalization Committee. Tickets are on sale now from any committee member or you can purchase at any one of the homes on the tour. Homes are:

Liz and Sam Marsh 467 US Hwy77
Dale and Marlyn Diepenbrock
569 Union Rd
Larry & Karen Lawrenz 923 US Hwy 77
Mike and Jami Monington 614 E Park

There will also be a quilt raffle. Tickets are \$1 each or \$5 for 6 tickets.



Suggested Readings and Prayers for the Advent Season

I

If you'd like to make your Advent extra special, consider putting a little Advent into every day of this season! Below are scripture readings for every day of Advent. Find a comfortable spot, pull out your Bible and you're ready to go! Most of the readings are short, so read them slowly and give yourself some time for the words to sink in.

I've also given you all the "O Antiphons," from which the familiar Advent hymn, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" was written. The church has used these antiphons for centuries to announce that Christmas is getting close! So, starting December 17th, you might consider using them yourself!

Finally, you might choose to close your time of reading and reflection by saying the Lord's Prayer, or by reading one of the Advent prayers that I've included.

May God bless you during this holy season!

Daily Scripture Readings

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| December 3: Isaiah 25:6-10 | December 14: Psalm 71:3-6 |
| December 4: Isaiah 26:1-6 | December 15: Zephaniah:3:14-18 |
| December 5: Isaiah 29:17-24 | December 16: Psalm 71:3-6 |
| December 6: Isaiah 35:1-10 | December 17: Malachi 3:1-4; 4:5-6 |
| December 7: Isaiah 40:1-11 | December 18: Micah 5:1-4 |
| December 8: Psalm 72:7-8, 12-13 | December 19: Luke 1:26-38 |
| December 9: Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17 | December 20: Luke 1:39-45 |
| December 10: Psalm 27 | December 21: Luke 1:46-56 |
| December 11: Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26 | December 22: Luke 1:57-66 |
| December 12: Jeremiah 23:5-8 | December 23: Luke 1:67-79 |
| December 13: Judges 13:2-7, 24-25 | December 24: Isaiah 52:7-10 |

The O Antiphons

From December 17 through December 23, sing the O antiphon for that day, to the tune of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."

December 17

O come, O Wisdom from on high,
embracing all things far and nigh;
in strength and beauty come and stay;
teach us your will and guide our way.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

December 18

O come, O come, O Lord of might,
as to your tribes on Sinai's height,
in ancient times you gave the law,
In cloud and majesty, and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

December 19

O come, O Branch of Jesse, free
 your own from Satan's tyranny;
 from depths of hell your people save,
 and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
 Rejoice! Rejoice!
 Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

December 20

O come, O Key of David, come,
 and open wide our heav'nly home;
 make safe the way that leads on high,
 and close the path to misery.
 Rejoice! Rejoice!
 Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

December 21

O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
 O Sun of justice, now draw near
 disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 and death's dark shadow put to flight.
 Rejoice! Rejoice!
 Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

December 22

O come, O King of nations, come,
 O Cornerstone that binds in one;
 refresh the hearts that long for you;
 restore the broken, make us new.
 Rejoice! Rejoice!
 Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

December 23

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
 and ransom captive Israel,
 that mourns in lonely exile here
 until the Son of God appear.
 Rejoice! Rejoice!
 Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

Advent Prayers

O God most high,
 For you we wait, for your coming we watch,
 For your reign we prepare, in your promise we rejoice.
 Open our eyes that we may see you.
 Open our hearts that we may receive you.
 Open our lips that we may praise you.
 Open our hands that we may serve you. Amen.

Loving God, we seek you in both the light and the darkness, the silence and the sounds, the fullness and the emptiness of this Advent season. Fill our hearts with hope for your coming, love for those most in need, and faith in your promises. May this time of preparation help us celebrate the birth of your Son with deep gratitude and abundant joy. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Light of the world. Amen.

Lord of heaven and earth, stir our hearts with longing for you and guide our preparation for Christmas. Remind us that you come to us to proclaim Good News each day through the church, the sacred scriptures, and the action of the Holy Spirit in our hearts. As we look ahead to your coming at the end of time, help us to remember that our salvation has already been won. May our prayer this Advent lead us on the path to everlasting life. Amen.

Thank you to Pastor Jim for putting these Advent Lessons together for us.

Minutes of the St. Paul Lutheran Church Council Meeting

10/17/2023

Members Present: Julie Albrecht, Karen Donahue, Roger Engle, Dan Nelson, Dede Patterson, Pastor Jim Peters, Debbie Wendt, Jennifer Wilson Not present: Megan Mein

President Dan Nelson called the meeting to order at 6:22 pm.

The meeting was opened with devotions provided by Dede.

The minutes of the 09/26/2023 council meeting were read. Karen motioned for approval; Jennifer seconded. The minutes were approved as written.

Financials – Debbie discussed the financial reports as of 09/30/2023. Plan selection for Portico insurance was due and the gold plan was selected. While personnel expenses appear over budget, the medical and dental expenses are down. Mileage expenses are also under budget. Contract labor is high due to supply pastors and worship supplies expenses are over budget. The church has not incurred any expenses to date for Pastor Rehwaldt's consulting services.

Pastor's Report – Pastor Peters thanked the congregations for allowing him to provide the prayers for healing on October 15. Pastor will hold confirmation class on October 22 following the semi-annual meeting. Pastor Peters asked about involvement in Trunk or Treat, but Dan said he has it covered. Discussion was held regarding whether Sunday morning services should be held in addition to the Christmas Eve services. Pastor Peters will inquire of Hebron council to consider their preference. A "friendsgiving" meal will be arranged for November 19 to precede the meeting with Pastor Rehwaldt.

Unfinished Business

Carpet/Tile Cleaning – Julie contacted I-serve. The floors were measured. The east entrance has rust stains that cannot be removed and damaged tiles; therefore, replacement was recommended. No estimate has been provided yet.

Parsonage Furniture Needs – There might be a solution for an end table for use in the bedroom and for dining room chairs.

New Business

Semi-Annual Meeting – The semi-annual meeting is scheduled for October 22, 2023. Discussion regarding nominees for the open church council position was held.

Budget Meeting – Discussion was held regarding reducing the budget for 2024.

Trunk or Treat – Dan will manage distributing the treats on October 28, 2023.

Pilgrimage of Lights – The Pilgrimage is scheduled for December 3, 2023. Saint Paul will sponsor the wise men scene and needs volunteers for actors. Karen is also looking for a device to play music and narration.

Sound Booth Issues – Internet was unable to connect to stream the services on October 15. Dale has contacted McClellan Sound from Wichita to resolve the issue.

Other Items – Community-wide meal is being researched by Corkie for the hospital workers that no longer have positions. More details on this meal will follow.

The next meeting will be November 21, 2023 at 6:15 PM. Julie will provide devotions.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.








: **December 2023**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sundays 9:30 am Worship at Hebron 11:00am Worship at St Paul						
					1	2 Haroldine Hicks Funeral with communion
3 1 st Sunday Advent 9:30am Hebron Worship 11:00 St Paul Worship Sun School 9:45 a.m. 6:00-8:00pm Pilgrimage of the Light	4 Meals on Wheels	5 Meals on Wheels 2:00 Quilters 5:30 choir	6 Meals on Wheels	7 Pearl Harbor Day Meals on Wheels	8 Meals on Wheels	9
10 9:30am Worship at Hebron 11:00 St Paul Worship Sunday School 2:00 Tour of Homes	11 Poinsettia order goes in at 10:00a.m.	12 2:00 Quilters 5:30 choir	13 5:30 Choir	14	15	16
17 11:00 Children's Program St Paul 9:30 Hebron Worship 11:00 St Paul Worship	18	19 2:00 quilters 5:30 choir	20	21	22	23
24 No morning church at St Paul 6:30 Christmas eve services Lessons and Carols	25 7:00a.m. Julotta at Hebron Church office closed	26 Pastor vacation	27 Pastor vacation	28 Pastor vacation	29 Pastor vacation	30
31 Lessons and Carols at Both churches 4:00 Wedding at St Paul						

December Servant Schedule

2023	Dec. 3	Dec. 10	Dec. 17	Dec. 24 Christmas Eve	Dec 31 2023	Jan 7 2023
Communion	Dede Patterson	Andrea Nelson	Vanessa Beye	Station #1 Pastor Andrea Nelson *Marcia Mathias	Bre Fry	Dede Patterson
Acolyte	Henry Nelson	Hadley Friedli	Raquel Lawrenz	Henry Raquel Ella	Jocelyn Lawrenz	Amelia Friedli
Communion Station #2				Dede Patterson Dale Kleinschmidt *Corkie Dunlap		
Greeters	Jennifer Wilson Joyce Loe Willis Bernhardt	Rodney & Dawn Wilson Corkie Dunlap	Debbie Wendt Craig & Marcia	Craig & Marcia Dan & Henry	Larry & Dallas Friedli Conne Gentz	Craig Wendt Marcia Mathias Peggy Hilliard
Reader	Dede Patterson	Andrea Nelson	Marcia Mathias	Keith Albrecht	Bre Fry	Karen Donahue
Counters	Dave & Rita Gehrke Willis Bernhardt	Rodney & Dawn Wilson Roger & Jayne	Debbie W Craig and Marcia	Craig & Marcia Debbie	Larry & Dallas Vanessa	Dede Craig and Marcia
Altar Guild	Conne Gentz	Conne Gentz	Conne Gentz	Conne Gentz	Conne Gentz	Tonya Utech Cindy Roberts
Sound Crew	Rodney Wilson Jennie Wilson	Henry Nelson Tanner B	Dale Diepenbrock Tanner B	Jennifer Wilson Tanner B	Tanner & Cinta Becker	Angela and Tanner B
Song Leader	Dory Olsen	Bre Fry	Dory Olsen	Bre Fry Dory Olsen	Dory Olsen	Dory Olsen

If you are unable to serve as scheduled please find someone to trade with.

Good Neighbor Parish
114 North 8th Street
Herington, KS 67449

December 2023

(785-258-3430)

Hebron	9:30 am	Worship
St. Paul =	9:30 am	Adult Ed.
	11:00 am	Worship

