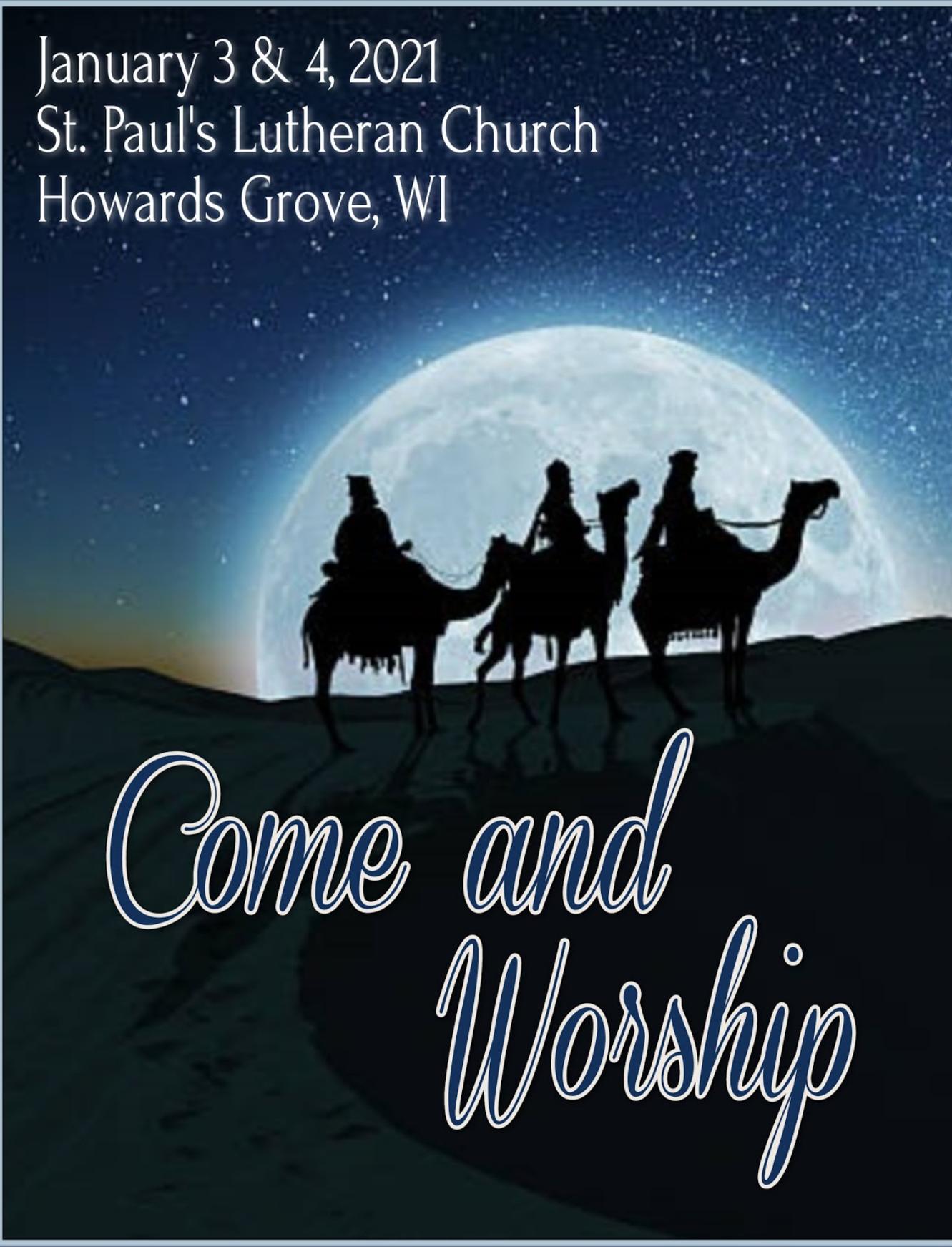


January 3 & 4, 2021
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Howards Grove, WI



*Come and
Worship*



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**ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH**
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**St. Paul's Lutheran Church is a
Congregation in the Wisconsin
Evangelical Lutheran Synod.**



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

We want to extend a warm welcome to everyone attending this worship service! Especially to you who are guests and visitors, **WELCOME!**

We at St. Paul's Lutheran share a common belief in **Jesus** as **our Savior** from sin and as the Lord of our lives. Our faith is based on God's Word, revealed in the Bible. We want to share God's Word with as many people as possible because we know that Jesus lived, died and rose from death to save us and all people. We're happy to have the opportunity to share the saving truths of the Bible with you!

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Worship during these times: We offer distanced seating on one side of the sanctuary. We also encourage compliance for all who are able to wear a face covering to honor God's representatives in our state government. Door handles and pew backs are cleaned between Sunday services. Hand sanitizer is available in the narthex. All responses and songs are printed in your bulletin, which should be taken with you or discarded after worship. Offerings may be placed in the designated boxes in the narthex.

Communion is offered in worship each month on the 2nd and 4th weekends. Members who are not yet comfortable returning to worship during the pandemic may schedule a communion appointment with a pastor.

DVDs: DVDs of our worship services can be made per request. Please contact the office to make arrangements. In order to ensure cleanliness, you do not need to return a DVD. Please consider a small monetary donation (\$2) to cover the cost of the DVD if you request one.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church is a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (The WELS) and was founded in 1862. We have our Lutheran elementary school (pre K-grade 8) on site and are part of a federation of churches to support our own high school, Manitowoc Lutheran High School.



THE COMMON SERVICE

Today's Worship Focus: *The readings during the Epiphany season carry forward the emphasis in the readings for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, the theme of Jesus revealing himself to us as God and Savior. At the same time the readings present us with a real conundrum. The conundrum is that he hides the manifestations of his deity, so that his glory remains a secret and a mystery, even while he is revealing it. In the readings for today there is a manifestation of his glory in the simple fact that Jesus doesn't die yet! But who sees that this is an amazing thing? Almost no one sees the glory. But always some, just a few, do.*

WELCOME

OPENING ANTHEM

Shines the Light

On the edge of a night lit with hope and promise, all the heavens are filled with the glory of God. From a rough wooden bed in a stable in Bethlehem shines the light of the world. Alleluia!

For the Child that is born here is sent from above to show us freedom and peace and love. From the life that he lives as he walks among us shines the light for our pathways. Alleluia!

On the edge of a day dimmed with grief and sorrow, though the dark would consume that radiance so bright, from a wooden cross on a hillside called Calvary shines the light that is Jesus. Alleluia!

For the man that hangs there is sent from above to bring us freedom and peace and love. From the life that denied the grave its power shines our light, our salvation. Alleluia! Shines our light, our salvation. Alleluia!

Please stand.

INVOCATION

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.



C: A - men.

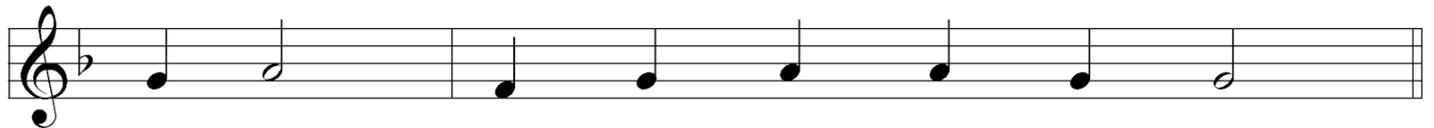
CONFESSION OF SINS

M: God calls us to come and worship him with penitent hearts. Therefore let us confess our sins to the Lord.

C: Dear Lord, we were born in the thick darkness of sin, distant from you and dead in our guilt. We have been ignorant of your light, opposed to your truth, and cold towards others. Our blindness has brought nothing but gloom among us and grief to you. We deserve to be left alone, separated from your life and goodness forever. Lord, have mercy on us!



C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy



on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us.

M: The Lord has been merciful to us, and his glory has dawned upon us. He sent his Son, born in Bethlehem and beheld by those from far away. He lived in our gloom to shine upon us. He died in darkness so that we may approach God with confidence. He rose again to assure us that his radiance is ours. In him our hearts throb and swell with joy. As a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Glory Be to God

Set to the tune of "As Angels Joyed with One Accord"

- 1 All glory be to God on high!
Your name, O Lord, we glorify;
We praise you for your peace and grace
Your favor towards our fallen race.
- 2 You, Christ, are holy - Lord Alone;
The Father's glory you made known.
We by your Spirit sing again:
"All glory be to God!" Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray. O God, by a star you led the Wise Men of old to worship the Christ child. So lead us that we too may worship him in all our lives. Holy Spirit within us, guide our works and shape our deeds and actions into fit expressions of worship, praise, and love. This we ask in the name of Jesus, the Light of the world.

C: Amen.

Be seated.

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 60:1-6

Nations will come to your light and kings to the brightness of your dawn, bringing gifts from far off.

- ¹"Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.
- ²See, darkness covers the earth
and thick darkness is over the peoples,
but the Lord rises upon you
and his glory appears over you.
- ³Nations will come to your light,

and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴“Lift up your eyes and look about you:
All assemble and come to you;
your sons come from afar,
and your daughters are carried on the hip.

⁵Then you will look and be radiant,
your heart will throb and swell with joy;
the wealth on the seas will be brought to you,
to you the riches of the nations will come.

⁶Herds of camels will cover your land,
young camels of Midian and Ephah.
And all from Sheba will come,
bearing gold and incense
and proclaiming the praise of the Lord.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 72

All kings will bow down to Jesus and all nations will be blessed through him.

Refrain



Let the peo - ple praise you, O God.



Let all the peo - ple praise you.

Psalm tone



Endow the King with your justice, O God,*
the royal Son with your righteousness.
He will defend the afflicted among the people*
and save the children of the needy.

He will endure as long as the sun,*
as long as the moon, through all generations.

He will be like rain falling on a mown field,*
like showers watering the earth.

Refrain

All kings will bow down to him,*
and all nations will serve him.

All nations will be blessed through him,*
and they will call him blessed.

Praise be to the LORD God, who alone does marvelous deeds.*
May the whole earth be filled with his glory.

**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.**

Refrain

Please stand.

SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 3:2-12

*In Christ and through faith in him, both Gentiles and Jews
may approach God with freedom and confidence.*

² Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³ that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. ⁴ In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵ which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. ⁶ This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

⁷ I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. ⁸ Although I am less than the least of all

the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹ and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. ¹⁰ His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, ¹¹ according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹² In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

SUNG RESPONSE *How Lovely Shines the Morning Star* | 79 v. 1

1 How lovely shines the Morning Star!

The nations see and hail afar The light in Judah shining.

O David's Son of Jacob's race,

My Bridegroom and my King of grace, For you my heart is pining.

Lowly, Holy, Great and glorious, O victorious Prince of graces,

Filling all the heav'nly places.

Please stand.

M: The Gospel according to Matthew chapter 2.



C: Glo - ry be to you, O Lord!

GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1-12

The Magi saw the star in the East and came to worship the young King of the Jews.

¹ After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶“But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.”

⁷Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

⁹After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Be seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY

As with Gladness Men of Old | 83

- 1 As with gladness men of old Did the guiding star behold,
As with joy they hailed its light, Leading onward, beaming bright,
So, most gracious Lord, may we Evermore your followers be.
- 2 As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to your lowly bed,
There to bend the knee before You whom heav'n and earth adore,
So may we with willing feet Ever seek your mercy seat.
- 3 As they offered gifts most rare At your cradle, rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy, Pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to you, our heav'nly King.
- 4 Holy Jesus, ev'ry day Keep us in the narrow way;
And, when earthly things are past, Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds your glory hide.
- 5 In the heav'nly country bright Need they no created light;
You its light, its joy, its crown, You its sun which goes not down.
There forever may we sing Alleluias to our King!

SERMON

Matthew 2:1-12

*Come and Worship!
Genuinely - Generously*

Please stand.



C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
 new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
 way from your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it
 from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -
 tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men.

OFFERING

Online giving options available



In thanks to our gracious Lord and his gift of forgiveness in Jesus, we bring to him a generous portion of all we have received from him. Offerings for the Lord's work may be placed in one of the designated boxes in the narthex today. They may also be mailed in, dropped off in the office, or given online.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH & LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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.

M: Almighty God, grant to your Church the Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes from above. Let nothing hinder your Word from being freely proclaimed to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, so that we may serve you in steadfast faith and confess your name as long as we live, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

THE BENEDICTION

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

Be seated.

CLOSING HYMN *The Star Proclaims the King is Here* | 91 v. 1, 2, 5

Set to the tune of "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"

- 1 The star proclaims the King is here; But, Herod, why this senseless fear?
For he who came from heaven's throne Does not desire an earthly crown.
- 2 The wiser Magi saw from far And followed on his guiding star,
And, led by light, to Light they pressed And by their gifts their God confessed.
- 5 All glory unto Jesus be And praise for his epiphany,
Whom with the Father we adore And Holy Spirit evermore.

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SERVING JESUS WITH HEARTS OF LOVE

PASTOR: Rev. Adam Bode

ORGANIST: Susan Phelps

MUSICIANS: Rev. Adam Bode, Ann Doro, Bev Gumm, Ann Marohn, and Natalie Rehbein

ALTAR GUILD: Bonnie Baumann, Karen Beining

USHERS: 8:00 a.m.- Allen Kraemer Trevor Athorp, Ray Price, Dan Goetsch, Jim Bilgo;

10:30 a.m. - Alan Kuether, Terry Roehrborn, Richard Kuether, Jeremy Neseemann, Aidan Daily

OFFERING: 12/20 & 12/21 - \$16,577 (WEEKLY BUDGET GOAL: \$15,700); \$2,000 - GRACE JAEGER MEMORIAL FUND; \$200 - MEMBER ASSISTANCE FUND; \$3,545 - MYRON LOOSE MEMORIAL TO THE HYMNAL PROJECT. (CURRENTLY AT \$7,900 OF THE \$10,300 GOAL).

OFFERING: 12/24, 12/25, & 12/27 - \$35,209 (WEEKLY BUDGET GOAL: \$15,700); \$400 - DEBT REDUCTION; \$500 - SCHOOL SCIENCE SUPPLIES.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE: 12/20: 124 - 8:00A.M. SERVICE, 89 - 9:30A.M. SERVICE, 59 - 11:00A.M.

SERVICE. 12/24 CHRISTMAS EVE: 123 - 1:00P.M. SERVICE, 164 - 3:00P.M. SERVICE, 152 - 5:00P.M.

SERVICE, 164 - 7:00P.M. SERVICE. 12/27: 123 - 8:00A.M. SERVICE, 75 - 10:30A.M. SERVICE.

IN OUR PRAYERS...

1. Cheri Hanson to undergo a hip replacement on January 5.

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

2. **Office hours** are Monday-Friday 7:15 - 4:00. You can reach Erin at secretary@stpaulshowardsgrove.org.
3. **New Sunday Bible Study!** The book we are starting is Zechariah, a great spiritual encouragement to God's people for *remembering him*. The study starts at 9:25 in the gym. There is no live stream for this study. Handouts are available by contacting Pastor Mueller.
4. **Women Writing the Word** This week we studied John 1:1-4. Why is it important to you to know that Jesus was true God? Verse 3 emphasizes that Jesus was active in creation. We often think of God the Father as the Creator of heaven and earth, but the Son and the Spirit were both involved too. How are you going to continue in this Scripture writing and reading habit in the new year? Thank you to all who participated! Look for more information on how you can continue reading more of the Bible together with us soon. If you have ideas for what you would like to study, contact Pastor Bode or Alycia Cameron.
5. **Parenting Bible Study:** Join us Tuesday evenings, January 5-February 2 from 6:30-7:30 for a parenting Bible study entitled "Living Christian Values in the Home". It will help God's families to serve the Lord better as we struggle with the challenges that arise in our homes.
The study covers the following five lessons:
 - Developing a Sense of Mission
 - Teaching Our Children Contentment
 - Teaching Our Children to Have Compassion
 - Teaching Our Children About Honesty
 - Teaching Our Children About ResponsibilityPlease click [HERE](#) to register by January 3. Babysitting will be provided (by students 7th grade and older). Contact Luther Curia with any questions. 920.287.8575; luther.curia@stpaulshowardsgrove.org
6. **Grow in the basics!** Starting January 10 a basic Bible course will be offered Sunday afternoons from 1:30 - 3:30 pm. Babysitting will be offered. The course is an 8 week course to refresh in God's Word or learn what he says and join as a member of our congregation. The course is free. Contact Pastor Mueller if interested: 920.203.2316. This will likely be a larger group of 20-30 people. Please confirm attendance ahead of time so materials may be ready for you at class time.
7. **Hymns for Her** - Beginning January 13 at the beginning of the school day, on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month, we'll have a 20 minute moms study in the narthex looking at hymns from different seasons of the Church Year, who wrote them, and how God uses them to bring his encouraging truth to us still today. We'll start as close to 8:00 am as possible.

8. **Financial Class** - Looking to finalize your New Year's resolutions? Being more organized and intentional with money just makes cents! Pastor Bode will lead a 9 week class called Financial Peace University on Thursdays at 6:30 pm, beginning January 7 to help us manage the LORD's money to his glory. The \$130 cost (per participant or couple), will quickly pay for itself when following the practical plan laid out in the class. Speak with Pastor Bode or go to fpu.com/1129440 for more information. *Childcare now being offered!*
9. **Sunday School Planning:** This semester we are planning to continue our current approach to Sunday School, with a class for 1-2nd graders, 3-4th graders, and 5-6th graders. 7th-8th graders are encouraged to join the teens from January 3-24. We are not planning to have the little ones in PreK or K in class this semester. While we would love to have class for these children, the level of cleaning the PreK and K rooms is much more extensive than the other classrooms. The custodian is not able to use the electrostatic sprayer in two minutes and move on with these classrooms. Cleaning involves several hours *daily* to use the washing machine to clean all the toys the children handle. We do offer remote Sunday School for PreK and K. For an idea of what this is, check this link. To register for remote Sunday School, please speak with Pastor Bode. For further inquiries into our Sunday School program, please speak directly with Pastors Mueller or Bode.
10. **Youth Group Bible Study** – In January the Youth Group will start up a 4-week Bible Study series called *Dear Future Self*. During this study we will dive into God's Word looking at topics from relationships, our perspective on life and our reputations. We will meet in-person, during Family Bible Hour starting on Sunday January 3rd and meet weekly through January 24th. Due to reduced Sunday School size this current year, we will open this study up to 7th graders through seniors in high school. The study is geared more towards a high school aged audience, but we want to give our 7th & 8th graders an opportunity to join in. We will meet in the 5th & 6th grade classroom. For any questions, contact Mike Leahy – mleahy@live.com.
11. **St. Paul's will be holding Open Houses and Registration Days** for our 4-year old preschool, and 5 year old kindergarten:
Friday, January 22nd - 4pm to 7pm
Saturday, January 23rd - 9am - noon.
If you know someone who may be interested in enrolling for the 2021-2022 school year - Enrollment is currently open! We anticipate full classrooms for both Preschool and Kindergarten. Early registration is encouraged! Thank you.
12. **Thank you St. Paul's Family** for your support and ministry encouragement! Thank you for your Christmas gifts and generosity! We are so blessed to serve you here with God's Word! *On behalf of the called workers.*