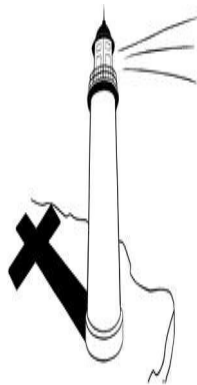


ST. PAUL'S
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

2114 Wedemeyer Street
Sheboygan, WI 53081

(920) 458-1611



The Beacon



DECEMBER 2016

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Closed
Tuesday-Friday:
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Other times by appointment

CHURCH WEB SITE:
www.sspucc.org

CHURCH EMAIL:
sheboyganstpaulsucc@gmail.com

CHURCH STAFF:
Rev. Jeremy Hylen, Pastor

Richard Reineking,
Consistory President
John Brown, Vice President
Lisa Flook, Organist
Leslie Ellair, Choir Director
Patricia Jaberg, Handbell Dir.
Lisa Drews, Admin. Asst.
Carol Reineking, Custodian

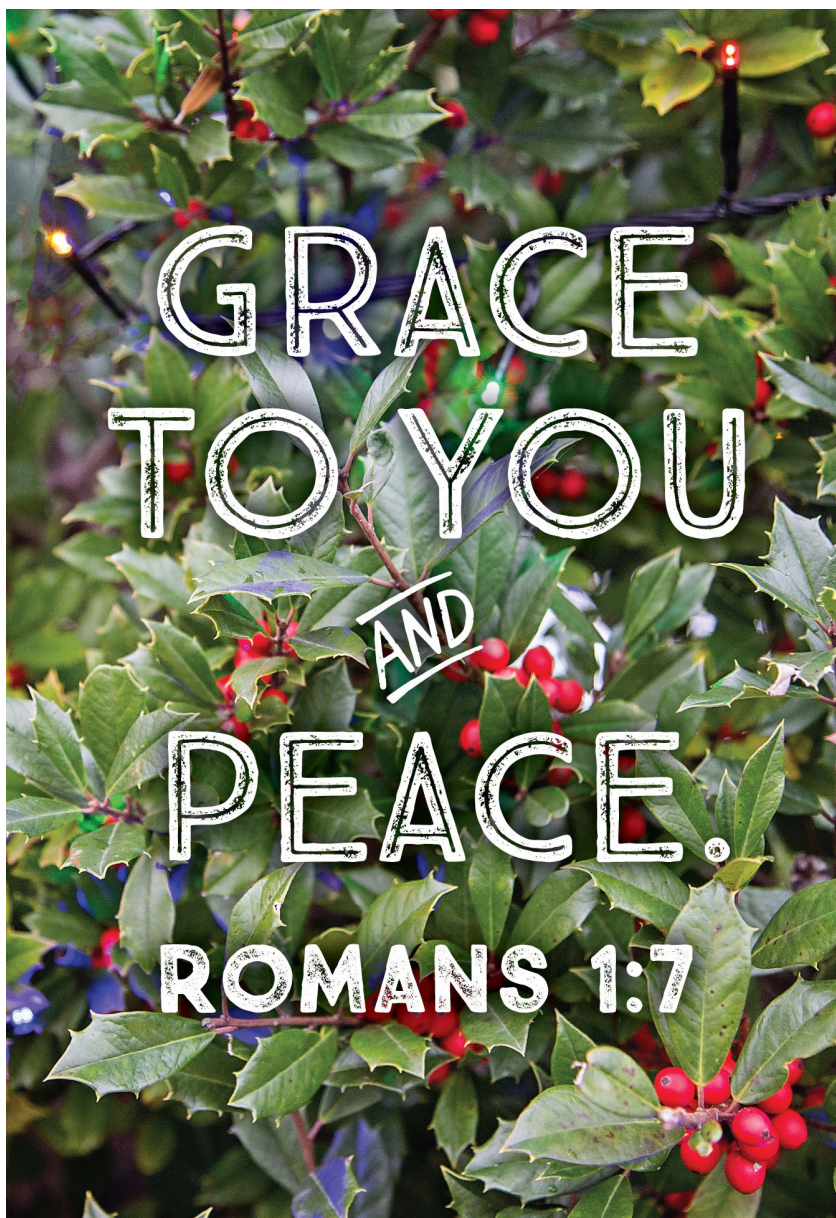
Midweek Worship
Wednesday @ 6:00 p.m.

Traditional Worship
Sunday @ 10:00 a.m.

Communion -
Second Sunday of each
month

Our Mission:

With love and compassion for
all, we guide and nurture
God's children, young and
old, on our spiritual journey
together.



Pastor's Page

I can hardly believe that Advent has already begun and Christmas will be here before we know it. Advent is a time of expectation as we await the coming of Emmanuel (God with us) once again. Christmas always seems to sneak up on me. It's not that I am not ready per se, but that Christmas seems to happen before I am in a place to appreciate it fully. I always seem to be so busy during Advent, that I forget to truly appreciate what is happening all around me. This year I have a few remedies to help prepare me to celebrate the Prince of Peace.

Step one: Hannah. Having a nearly three-year-old makes the inevitability of Advent and Christmas very apparent in my life. Hannah has already begun to ask questions about Santa and his elves. She can't wait to open her Advent calendar each day and see what surprise is inside (seeing that she can't read, it's normally chocolate). She has already begun singing Jingle Bells and the Gloria from Angels We Have Heard on High. It's hard to keep this time of expectation far from my mind with a walking, talking, singing reminder of God with us.

Step two: Movies. Laurie and I have a barrage of Christmas movies that help prepare us for the beauty of the Christmas season. Of course, there are the classics like *It's a Wonderful Life* and *Miracle on 34th Street*, but Laurie and I dig a bit deeper. Our favorite movie is *The Bishop's Wife* (1947) with Cary Grant, Loretta Young, and David Niven—it was recreated as *The Preacher's Wife* with Denzel Washington, but the original is the best. On Black Friday, we will watch *Elf* with Will Ferrell for the first, and certainly not the last time of the season. Some family favorites include *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, *Home Alone*, *Christmas Vacation*, *Muppet Christmas Carol*, and *Arthur Christmas*. If my math is right, we have about a movie a night for the season. Our ritual of sitting together to watch these films helps me to remember how important my family is in being prepared for the embodiment of love in our world.

Step three: Music. I have a playlist for Christmastime that helps me remember that amid a busy season, there is always room for Christmas cheer. The music starts after Thanksgiving dinner when we decorate the house. It plays pretty much non-stop until Epiphany on January 6. My playlist ranges from classic choral Christmas works (groups like Chanticleer) to goofy Christmas songs (*I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas*) to jazz classics (Miles and Trane) to Christmas Carols. It's harder for me to become overwhelmed or depressed or fearful with Bing Crosby singing around me.

Step four: Church. This probably sounds a bit silly coming from me, but being in worship in the Advent season helps me focus on what is actually important. Hearing the stories of Advent, singing Christmas carols, looking at the beauty of the sanctuary all dressed up for Christmas—these things help remind me of the gift of Jesus in my life. It reminds me of how special this time of year can be when I focus on the coming of Christ once again, instead of the hustle and bustle of the season. It centers me so that I might better be ready for God to break into my life anew and open my eyes to the goodness of God's creation and especially God's children.

I hope this Advent season finds you in a place to begin to open your heart again to the coming of the Christ child, the Prince of Peace, the one we call Emmanuel. I hope that in the midst of a joyful and difficult season, you might find a place of peace in your life. I hope you find joy in the loved ones that surround you here, but also remember with joy those who have gone before us. I hope that you know how much you are loved not only by God, but by all of the angels God has placed in your midst.



Consistory at Work

Consistory Meeting Minutes - St. Paul's UCC, Sheboygan, WI Wednesday, November 9, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Jeremy Hylan (Pastor), John Brown, Jay Englebert, Charlotte Jump, Leon Jump, Mike King, Lisa McKenzie, Linda Mueller, Richard Reineking, Daniel Van Straten, Mason White **Absent:** Sarah Kolb, Jaymz Stempihar

Treasurer's Report and Stewardship Report for October (Linda Mueller):

Total Income: \$9,080.16. Total expense: \$8,229.59. Net Income: \$850.57.
Building Improvement Fund: \$36,531.83. Parsonage Fund: \$31,858.12. General Fund: **MINUS** \$(13,410.24).
Memorial Fund: \$95,853.08. Other assets: 573 shares Heartland Financial: \$17,969.28.
The Stewardship Report Weekly Giving total: \$8,358.00.

- Linda Mueller reviewed the 2017 Proposed Budget as prepared by Greg Peterson, Linda Mueller, and Jim Schwarten. Motion to accept and present the 2017 Proposed Budget to the Congregation for approval passed.

Head Trustee Report (Jay Englebert & Mason White):

- The garage roof and overhang finished. Finishing up with cleanup, painting, and gutter enhancement.
- Motion to approve installing gutter on the garage and the north side of the church building passed.
- Mason finished work on removal and trimming of bushes on the church grounds.
- Maintenance progressing on window leaks (stained glass windows and others), tiles, and sink.
- Maintenance on a snow blower completed.

Board of Christian Education Report (Lisa McKenzie):

- Christmas Play practices after the children's message each Sunday. Reminders will be sent to parents about the schedule for the Christmas Play on December 4.
- Trunk or Treat a great success with 14 trunks and approx. 200 people attending. A good community project, and it will be held annually. More helpers needed next year with crafts.

Pastor's Report (Jeremy Hylan):

- A coalition of churches, including St. Paul's and St. John's, running a warming shelter at Salvation Army from January 1 through February 31, caring for people needing to keep warm in the community.
- Kari Arnoldi wedding on December 10.
- Jeremy recommended calling Barb Hengst as a licensed lay minister at St. Paul's. Motion to call Barb Hengst as lay minister at St. Paul's passed.
- Work in progress on the new pictorial directory. Picture taking during Advent Season.
- Suggestion to pre-print color documents like bulletin covers, letterhead, and envelopes. Motion to accept the bid passed.

President's Report (Richard Reineking):

- Work in progress on the digital message board and removal of the flag poles located on each side of the message board.

Other Business:

- Thanks are given to church members providing refreshments each Sunday following worship, including but not limited to: Agnes Kunstmann, Melody Kolb, Linda Mueller, Linda Horn, Ervida Van Straten, and Maddie & Molly Peterson.
- The flag poles removed from each side of the message board are open for the taking, and a donation to the church is an option but not required.
- Work in progress on the planning of the Last Supper drama.

Respectfully submitted, Daniel Van Straten, Secretary



DECEMBER

2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 10:00 a.m. Healing Hearts 7:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal	2	3
4 8:45 am Sunday School 10 am Worship Service, Children's Christmas Program, & Dedication Sunday	5 1 p.m. Dartball - Saints @ Sureshots Sheboygan Dartball games at St. Paul's UCC	6 9:30 a.m. Advent Bible Study	7 9 a.m. Dartball Practice 5:00 p.m. Confirmation Class 6 p.m. Midweek Worship	8 7:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal	9	10 Arnoldi Wedding at St. Paul's UCC
11 8:30 am Choir Practice 8:45 am Sunday School 10 am Worship Service with Holy Communion Order SCRIP	12 1 p.m. Dartball - Darts @ Saints	13 9:30 a.m. Advent Bible Study 1:30 p.m. Mary Circle 5:00 p.m. Esther Circle meets at the home of Diana N.	14 9 a.m. Dartball Practice 5:00 p.m. Confirmation Class 6 p.m. Midweek Worship 7 p.m. Consistory Meeting	15 10:00 a.m. Healing Hearts 7:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal	16	17
18 8:30 am Choir Practice 8:45 am Sunday School 9:30 am Handbell Rehearsal 10 am Worship Service w/ Bell & Chancel Choirs	19 1 p.m. Dartball - Highflyers @ Saints	20 9:30 a.m. Advent Bible Study	21 6 p.m. Midweek Worship	22 7:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal	23 Office closed	24 Christmas Eve Worship Service at 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir
25 Christmas Day 10 am Worship Service with Holy Communion	26	27	28 6 p.m. Midweek Worship	29	30 Office closed	31 New Year's Eve



December Birthdays

Sharon Quicker	December 1
Darlene Hasseler	December 2
Rebecca Lohse	December 2
DiAnne Kober	December 4
Patricia Jaberg	December 4
Jacob Dassler	December 9
Carol Ehrenreich	December 9
Steve Johnson	December 10
Diana Neils	December 11
Jennifer McAdoo	December 12
LaVonne Lastusky	December 20
Carol Ristow	December 22
Harlen Voechting	December 27
Clifford Ehrenreich	December 28
Kenneth Reinemann	December 28
James Trautman	December 29

*If we missed anyone or made a mistake, we're sorry.
Please call the church office with any corrections.
Thank you!*



Schedule for December

Liturgists

4—Mason White
11—Ervida Van Straten
18—Carol Drews
25—Daniel Van Straten

Scripture Readers

4—James Stempihar
11—Joanne Lensink
18—Ervida Van Straten
25—Naomi Holzwart

Ushers

4—Mike King, Steve Flook, Bonnie Klabecek, and Diana Neils
11—Daniel & Ervida Van Straten, Mary & Keith Risse
18—Richard & Carol Reineking, Linda Horn, and Harlen Voechting
25—Iva Endres, Judy & Richard Belitz, and Jim Schwarten

Acolytes

4—Jake Englebert
11—Henry White
18—Kyle Flook
25—No Acolyte

December Chancel Lady

Ervida Van Straten



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dedication Sunday - December 4

On Sunday, December 4, you are invited to bring your Time and Talent sheets and pledge cards to worship. After the Children's program, we will take some time during the Offering to dedicate our gifts in the service of the Kingdom of God. Ushers will collect the Time and Talent sheets and pledges of those who would like to remain in their seats. Please remember to bring your sheets and cards on this Dedication Sunday.

Mark Your Calendars!

The Women's Guild of St. Paul's United Church of Christ will be selling quarts and pints of chili on January 29th after the traditional church service as a fundraiser – just one week before Super Bowl Sunday. Price of quarts will be \$6.50, pints \$3.25. In the month of January there will be an order sheet in the Gathering Area. Thank you for keeping this fundraiser in mind.



St. Paul's is adopting a family this Christmas!

How can you help?

- 1. Take a leaf from the Giving Tree and purchase the specific item listed.***
- 2. Monetary donation for gift card or item purchases.***
 - 1. Non-perishable food item donation.***
 - 2. Wrapping paper donation.***

***All donations need to be at church by
Sunday, December 18th.***

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Poinsettias

Orders are now being taken for Poinsettias to beautify the Sanctuary this Christmas. Orders can be placed in the church office or may be placed in the offering plate. The cost is \$9.50. Please include your name, envelope number, in memory of, or in honor of, and payment with your request.

Mitten Tree

Our mitten tree is up again this year. Please bring mittens, gloves, hats and scarves to distribute to local girls and boys. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

Fellowship Time - Thank You!

A special thank you to church members providing refreshments and assistance each Sunday following the worship service. Thank you Agnes Kunstmann, Melody Kolb, Linda Mueller, Linda Horn, Ervida Van Straten and Maddie & Molly Peterson. Thank you to the Board of Christian Education, Naomi Holzwart and also the White family. We appreciate your generosity and hospitality.

Baptisms to Celebrate

Leland Ross Voight -
Baptized November 27, 2016

Updates to the Church Directory:

Sarah Blindauer
7 Beaver Dam Street
Waupun, WI 53963

Amy Voechting
2814 Superior Avenue
Sheboygan

Marlene Voechting
85 Bulldog Blvd.
Melbourne, FL 32901

Tricia Klessig
817 Jackson Avenue
Sheboygan

SCRIP News

Monthly SCRIP orders will be taken on the following Sundays: December 11, 2016, January 8 and February 12, 2017. Thank you for your continued support.

Second Mile

Second Mile envelopes are available at the back of the Sanctuary for anyone interested in helping reduce the deficit in the church's checking account.

Updating Church Directory

A copy of the church directory has been placed in the Gathering Area. Members are asked to review this and indicate any changes to their information. Please also review your email and make any corrections to this as well.

Inclement Weather

In times of bad weather to find out about church service cancellations, please tune to TV Channel 4 WTMJ. Please note that when adverse weather conditions cause the area schools to close, our church office will be closed as well.

Meals On Wheels

"This Christmas season, Meals On Wheels will be delivering a box of homemade cookies to those receiving meals. (For some clients, this is the only gift they will receive.) The boxes have already been donated; box tops are being decorated by a few talented groups within the community, so now all we need are the cookies! If you would like to donate some of your home-baked specialties to our project, please call Maureen at Meals On Wheels at 451-7011. We have set up cookie drop off sites in both Sheboygan and Plymouth. We will be packaging the cookies on the 20th of December."

Living Nativity - Dec. 9 & 10

Salem UCC in Plymouth is presenting a Living Nativity on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 9 & 10, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. The program has costumed characters and live animals set to scripture and music. Please join Salem UCC for their program which runs every half hour and refreshments in the gathering area. For more information, contact the church office at 892-7456.

REMEMBER TO PRAY AND VISIT MEMBERS WHO ARE HOMEBOUND. . .

Countryside Manor - 4228 Kadlec Drive
Sheboygan, WI 53083
(Office #452-2229)

Gladys Leonard—D5
Esther Hemschemeyer—D17
Elaine Rautmann—D14

Pine Haven -

Claris Gartman—FH101 at 220 Haven Drive
Sheboygan Falls
(Office #550-5686)

Paul Riehl—Room 307 at 540 Mark Avenue
Sheboygan Falls
(Office #467-2401, Ext. 218)

Prairie Crossing -

Bob Hollenbeck—Room 109 at 1280 Pine Haven
Lane, Sheboygan Falls
(Phone #550-5638)

Sheboygan Senior Community -

Jean Carlson—Room 310 at 3505 Cty. Rd. Y.
Sheboygan, WI 53083
(Phone #458-2137)

Sheboygan Shores Senior Living -

3315 Superior Avenue, Sheboygan
(Office #457-4000)

Elaine Born—Room 12
Madeline Herr—Room 18
Phyllis Mueller—Room 17

At Home:

Margaret Schweikert - 928 Wisconsin Avenue
Apt. 315, Sheboygan
(803-0462)

Shirley Schilling - 1521 S. 11th Street
Sheboygan (458-3673)

Jeanette Schutt - 1654 Black Walnut Trail
Sheboygan (457-7583)

