

Truly

Thanksgiving is a time that causes nearly everyone, including unbelievers, to count their blessings. While all of us are grateful for food, clothing, shelter, and good health along with family and loyal friends, only those who have faith in the Son of God can be truly thankful for the greatest blessing of all -- the forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life. "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift" (2 Corinthians 9:15)!

Mobile Giving

Mobile Giving is an easy way to fulfill your need to give to the Lord. Using your smart phone, **text CROSSANDCROWN to 73256 or click on Access ACS on St. Paul's webpage.**

Verse of the Month Bible Study - Today

Our Verse of the Month Bible Study under the theme "Friends to the Nth" will be held the **3rd Sunday** of each month. Women's Group- led by Tiffany Ausdemore will meet in the Upstairs Commons and the Mixed Group - led by Pastor Knepprath will meet in the Fireside Room. Classes begin at 9:25 am.

Bible 101: Hope Grows

-Sunday from **9:15-10:15 am** in the upstairs classroom. This is for anyone who would like to learn more about us as a congregation and synod so that they can feel comfortable and confident about church membership or if you just want to strengthen your hold on Biblical doctrine. Everyone is invited.

Mid-week Advent Services

There is no better way to prepare for the coming Savior than to worship him at our mid-week Advent service. Our last Advent service is on **December 19th**. Service times are **4 and 6:30 p.m.** The theme is "**Getting Ready for Baby**". A light meal will be served in the gym after the 4:00 service by the St. Paul's Softball team.

Men's Group

All St Paul's men are invited to attend the next Men's Group fellowship on **Wed, Dec. 19th at 7:30 pm** in the Fireside Room. The fellowship will include a devotion, information sharing and food. Contact Dave Ausdemore (dtausdemore@gmail.com) for more information.

2019 Christian Calendars and Christmas Cards

The Mary Ruth Circle has 2019 Christian calendars and Christmas cards available for purchase in both the Narthex and the Fireside Room.

Celebrating Christmas at St. Paul's

There will be many opportunities to worship the Christ child in the coming weeks. The **Youth Christmas Service** (Preschool through 8th grade) will be on Christmas Eve at 5:00 pm. Their service will be followed by our **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** at 7:30 pm. The **Christmas Festival Service** is on Dec. 25th at 9:00 am. Come join us as you are able!

Last minute shopping

Avoid the long lines at the mall this week and consider purchasing scrip cards for your last minute Christmas gifts. We have approximately 30 businesses to choose from for immediate purchase. Stop by the office today.

Jesus Loves Me Learning Center (JLMLC)

We have this coming last week to share the real meaning of Christmas and it is a real joy to do that with the 115 children in care here at JLMLC. We will together see and hear and imagine the shepherds coming to see Baby Jesus that first Christmas. How were they feeling on their way there and back home? Children will think about this and do many activities about Christmas.

We are here at 507 345 7707 or lingjlm@hickorytech.net if you have child care needs.

We are looking for more staff (full time position and more) to work at JLMLC especially in 2019. Sharing God's Word with kids is great and we could use more staff early in the morning and later afternoon too. Call 507 508 2041 or email lingjlm@hickorytech.net to get more information!

Sunday School Christmas Eve Practice Schedule

12/16/18 – Practice - 9:15-10:15 am

12/23/18 – Practice - 9:15-10:15 am

Drop off and pickup in the Sanctuary

2019 Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for the upcoming year can now be found in your church mailbox. Please be sure to take them home with you today.

Scrip orders

This is the last weekend before Christmas to place special orders for scrip. Scrip ordered today will be available Wednesday, December 19th. Scrip will be sold on December 23rd between services.

BonusFest!

Check out the 20 scrip retailers that have bonus rebates this month. A list is posted on the bulletin board across from the office. Stop by the office and buy your scrip!

Scrip Wish Lists

We have "**Scrip wish lists**" for the called staff at St. Paul's and Risen Savior. Stop by the office and consider giving scrip gift cards. Are you still undecided after looking at the list? Let them choose by giving a certificate good for the purchase of scrip gift cards. We have certificates available in any amount.

RSLs Basketball Game (Away)

Monday, Dec. 17th @ Belle Plaine; Boys A – 5:30; Girls – 6:30

Housing Needed!

RSLs will again have the privilege of hosting two students beginning in January. As part of hosting an MLC student teacher, the host school is asked to find housing if necessary. This year one of the student teachers will need housing from January 17 – March 29. If interested in housing a female student teacher, please contact Principal Rupnow. Food expenses are reimbursed through MLC.

MVL Christmas Concert - Dec. 20

You're invited to MVL on Thursday, December 20 for our Christmas concert! Preconcert music will be provided by the band beginning at 6:45 P.M. with the concert beginning at 7:00 P.M. For those unable to attend, we hope to livestream the concert on our Facebook page (facebook.com/mvlhs).