

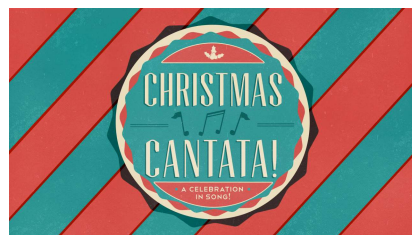
THE SON TIMES

Newsletter of Immanuel & St. Paul Lutheran Church-November 2024

We will gather at St. Paul on Thursday, November 28 @ 9 am to join in worship in Thanksgiving to our God for all we have received in this past year and throughout our lives. We will be celebrating the Lord's Supper that day, so please plan, before you sit down with family for turkey & football (and maybe a bit of deer hunting thrown in) to worship our God who indeed give us all things.



Gemeinschaft is hosting the 2nd Deer Hunter's Worship at Immanuel on Wednesday, November 20, starting at 6:30 pm. A meal will follow.



Immanuel will be holding their annual Christmas Cantata on Sunday, Dec. 8 at 8:30 am, followed by brunch. All members of St Paul & Immanuel are invited to join us in singing. Not a lot of experience? No worry-we will help you out. Practice is held on Sunday at 3 pm.

Advent-by-Candlelight

Immanuel LWML will again host this event for ladies of the joint parish of Immanuel & St. Paul with their family members, friends & neighbors on Sunday afternoon, Dec. 1. This year, the theme is "Women of Faith." Please plan on joining us for an hour or two for a Christ-centered program, fellowship, beautiful music, and delicious desserts all in preparation of an unforgettable Advent season.



On Sunday, Nov. 3, we will be celebrating All Saints Sunday at Immanuel & St. Paul. On this day, we remember those saints who entered the Church Triumphant in this past year, lighting a candle and tolling the bell at their name. This year we remember:



- Eugene Schreiber-November 22
- Evelyn Homan-June 6
- Elsie Gruenewald-September 8
- William Wegner-September 12



We have signed up for a mission opportunity to pack meals for Feed My Starving Children, a Christian ministry providing food for millions of children around the world. The date is Saturday, Nov 16, from 2:30-4:30 pm in Wausau, Everyone aged 5 years and up are able to participate. We have 15 slots signed up for-if needed, we can try to get more. Sheets are at each church; talk to PC for more info.



We are again collecting boxes to OCC at St Paul & Immanuel, gifts that help bring Christmas to children around the world. Look for brochures in the narthex or talk to PC.

Please have the boxes at the churches by Sunday, Nov. 17.



Looking ahead to December, we will continue some of our normal activities as well seek new ones. We will be finding a time to ring bells for Salvation Army- please let PC know if a certain day/time works well.

We will be heading to sing for our older and shut-in members, likely Sunday, Dec. 22.

Our new event will be to head over to Chippewa Falls to take in the light display at Irvine Park (this is near PC's home), with eating supper at a local restaurant.

Next meeting is Tues, Nov 5 at SP @ 5 pm. Keep tuned for more events! Ideas welcomed.

Once again, I would like to sincerely, from the bottom of my heart, extend my thank you to SP & IM for the gifts, cards and kind words given to me during pastor's appreciation month.



We have two questions this month, each with a smaller answer. The first, *Why does pastor sign a cross on his lips before Gospel reading?* This comes from a way to keep the pastor centered into remembering what he is about to embark upon. Part of this comes from the understanding that the worship of the Church is not just a thing we do, but is stepping upon holy ground, as Dr. Arthur Just likes to say. For in the Divine Service we are now in the presence of God (as His Triune Name has been invoked); that heaven has now come down to earth. So when a pastor is about to take the Word of God upon his lips, he must remember that he is speaking the very Words of God Himself, particularly around the reading of the Gospel (and why, in general, only an ordained pastor reads the Gospel if there are others participating in the Service).

So, before you read the Word of God that speaks, directly and openly, upon the word and Person of our Lord Jesus Christ, a special prayer is traditionally said, asking God to prepare the lips and heart of the one reading. This is a prayer that could be said between moving from the altar or lectern (where the other readings are done) to where the Gospel is read (either at the lectern or in the midst of the congregation). In our case, as everything is read at the lectern, I say the prayer after the Alleluia and before I begin the task of proclaiming the Gospel. I say only a part of the larger prayer that could be said, *"The Lord be in my heart and on my lips, that I may worthily proclaim His Gospel. Amen,"* with the sign of the cross made on heart and lips. This is done to both remind me of what I am about to do, the seriousness of what I am about to do, and the importance of what I am about to do. That this isn't a phone book I'm reading; it is the very Word of our Living God, the Word that holds eternal life.

This is all part of everything I do-how I stand, hold my hands, turn and face-all done through a bit of piety and remembrance that what is happening on a Sunday morning is the most important thing being done that entire week-the receiving of our God for our forgiveness, life and salvation.

The other is shorter and harder to answer: *Where do we see in the Bible that Jesus descended into hell?* Quick answer: we really don't. What I mean is that we really don't have a clear, specific text that talks about the event. The closest we have is 1 Peter 3, *"For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹ in which He went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison."* Other places are Psalm 16:10 and Ephesians 4:9. The Formula of Concord (Article 9) directs us to Luther's 1533 sermon given in Torgau, where he says, *"We should not bother ourselves with lofty, sophisticated ideas about how this occurred."* All we can do is "believe it" Luther said, and not try to delve into something that the Church has delivered to us in the Apostles Creed but not found explicitly in Scripture. Instead, according to Luther, just confess the truth 2nd Article and hold firmly to what our Lord Jesus has done for us.

