

Called by Christ to Serve

*St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church & Lighthouse Preschool
Aberdeen, SD December 2022*

A Season of Reversals

Luke 2:46-55

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord,"⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,⁴⁸ for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;⁴⁹ for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.⁵⁰ And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;⁵² he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate;⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,⁵⁵ as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever."

Advent is a time of preparation and waiting. We wait and prepare not for the baby Jesus, though we do celebrate his coming, but for Christ's second coming. That is why it is fitting, as we wait and prepare, to look at Mary's Magnificat. This is the song Mary sang while visiting her cousin Elizabeth due to the joy they are receiving from God.

However, one of the most striking features of Mary's Magnificat are the reversals that can be seen throughout it. Take verse 52 "he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate". It is hard not to see the reversals here. The humble are usually seen in lowly way, while the mighty are up high. But notice what Mary does, she notes that God does the exact opposite. He brings up the humble and brings down the mighty. A complete reversal!

That is one of the reasons why it is fitting so say that Advent is a season of reversals. How we usually think of the world is thrown on its head. Here comes a king, but he is not born in a castle, or with servants all around him, or even dressed in royal garments. No, here is a king born in a stable who is laid in a manger and surrounded by shepherds of all people! The weirdest part, however, is not where he was born or to whom he was born, but what he has come to do. No, one who is born comes into the world saying, "I am here to die for you". That's just foolishness, but that is exactly what this baby has come to do. He has come to die not just for the people who love him, not just for the Jews, but for all people. He has come to die for sake of his creation.

This is the king that has come down and has died for you. Not because of good or mighty you are but because you are part of his creation that he loves so much. So much so that he sent his only son to die for you. So, as you wait and prepare for the second coming of this king remember this is the king that reverses everything, we think we know about the world. He brings down the proud and elevates the humble. However, above all else remember this is the king that will do anything to be with you forever. That is his love for you! That is a true Christmas miracle!

In Christ,

Pastor Smith

December Events

Advent Worship Services: November 30, 2022 12:15 pm & 6:15 pm
 December 7, 2022 12:15 pm & 6:15 pm
 December 14, 2022 12:15 pm & 6:15 pm
 December 21, 2022 12:15 pm & 6:15 pm

(Soup & Sandwiches after the 12:15 pm service and prior to the 6:15 pm service.)

Five Loaves Supper—December 7th - 5:15 pm—Soup and sandwiches

December 10th: Please join the Steger Family celebrating the High School graduation of Hannah Elisabeth Steger—1:00-3:00pm at St. Paul's in the fellowship hall. Please RSVP 605-848-1320.

Joy Sunday: December 11, 2022—10:00 am Potluck lunch to follow (one service)

Prayer Service: December 11th at 12:30 pm

Lighthouse Preschool Program: December 12—6:30 pm

Children's Christmas Program: December 18th—9:30 am—Sanctuary

Christmas Eve Services: December 24, 2022 3:00 pm & 5:00 pm

Christmas Day Worship: December 25, 2022 10:00 am (No Wed. night service)

No confirmation classes: December 28, 2022

No Sunday School: December 11 & 25, January 1st.



Circuit Epiphany Service

Friday, January 6, 2023

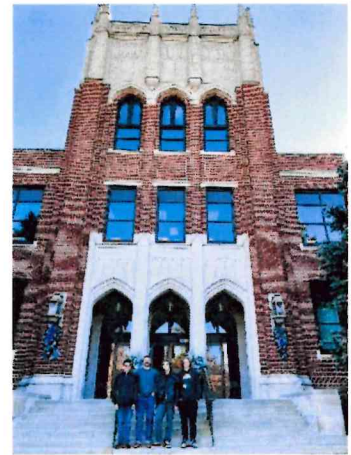
6:00 pm

At St. Paul's

Check It Out!

Our Sunday School children shared their gifts with us during the 10:45 service on Sunday, November 6th. They sang God So Loved the World That He Gave (LSB #571) which was very fitting for our celebration of All Saints Day! We look forward to the Sunday School children sharing their musical gifts with us two more times on Joy Sunday (Dec. 11th) and at the Christmas program (Dec. 18th).

DCE Leapley took Judah Bobby, Isaac Jung, and Caiden Siebert on a trip to visit Concordia University, Nebraska (Nov. 3rd-5th). It was a great trip. We are blessed to have this LCMS university that is committed to equipping students for service in God's church and world. Please keep these young men in your prayers as they make plans for their future education and careers!



Events and Information

- Youth Group is only on December 11th this month (5-7 PM)!
 - We will be celebrating Christmas and enjoying the festivities
- Commercials and the Catechism
 - This is the NEW youth group lesson series. We have analyzed movies and music thus far. Now we will turn our attention to commercials in conjunction with a study of the Large Catechism.
- Circuit Youth Retreat on Saturday, December 3rd
 - 9 AM to 3 PM
 - \$5 registration fee
 - Please contact the church office if your child is interested in attending

Lighthouse Preschool News

Teaching God's children about their Creator, Savior, and Friend while preparing them for a lifetime of wonder, learning, and service.

December 2022

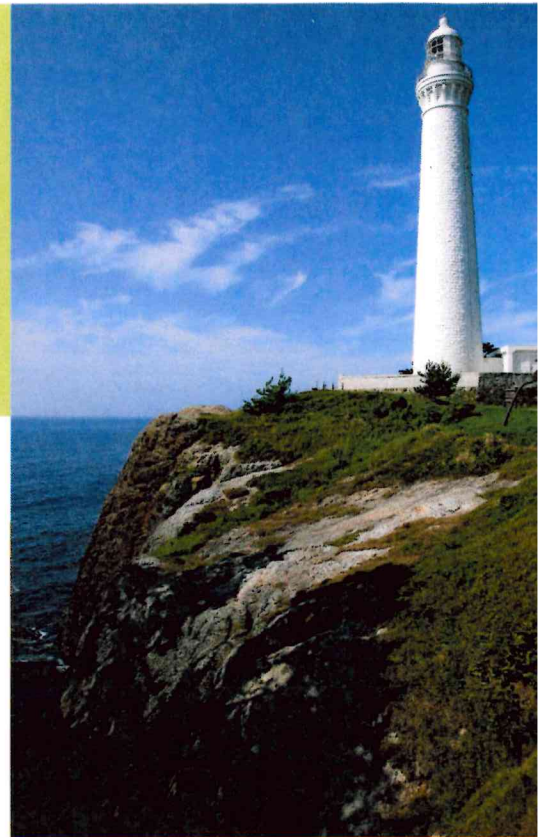
Merry Christmas!

This time of year we are busy thinking of the perfect gifts to give to our loved ones. In the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, it is easy to forget why we even give gifts in the first place. We give gifts at Christmas to remember the perfect gift that God gave to us, to set us free from sin, Jesus!

Please consider helping continue the ministry here by choosing an ornament off of the preschool Christmas tree in the church. Choose a dollar amount you are comfortable donating, return your gift in the supplied envelope to Jenelle or Cindy, and keep the ornament as a thank you! We will be collecting donations throughout the month of December.

Also, please note for yourself or for a family that you know, that registration for the 2023-2024 school year will be open in January.

Please also pray that as we tell these little ones about how the Lord of the Universe came into creation as a baby, they would know that they are dearly loved children of the Heavenly Father!



Upcoming Dates:

**December 1-31- Angel Tree
Preschool Fundraiser**

**December 12th-
6:15pm
Christmas Program**

**December 23-Jan 4
Christmas Break!**

**Reminders:
Save Those
Grocery Receipts**

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church (LCMS)

& Lighthouse Preschool

Rev. Samuel Bobby (605) 415-5578

Rev. Jacob Smith (586) 556-6077

December



Every Sunday:

Divine Service @ 8am

Bible Study @ 9:30 am

Sunday School @ 9:30 am

Divine Service @ 10:45 am

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
WEDNESDAYS: Advent Soup/Sandwich Lunch - 12:45 pm Advent Soup/Sandwich supper - 5:30 pm						
4 Coin Banks	5 7:00 pm Elder Mtg	6 6:45pm Choir Pract. 7:30pm Bell Practice	7 6:00 am Men's Bible St 10:45 am Bible Study 12:15 pm Advent Service 5:15 Five Loaves Supper 5:15 Women's Bible St. 6:15 pm Advent Service 7pm Confirmation	8 9am Quilting	9	10 1-3pm Steger Graduation Party
11 10am - Joy Sunday Worship Potluck following 5-7pm Youth Group	12 6:15 pm Preschool Christmas Program	13 6:45pm Choir Pract. 7:30pm Bell Practice	14 6:00 am Men's Bible St 10:45 am Bible Study 12:15 pm Advent Service 5:15pm Women's Bible St 6:15 pm Advent Service 7pm Confirmation 7pm Bible Christmas St	15 9am Quilting 7pm Rural Gospel Init.	16	17
18 9:30am Sunday School Christmas Program	19	20 6:45pm Choir Pract. 7:30pm Bell Practice	21 6:00 am Men's Bible St 10:45 am Bible Study 12:15 pm Advent Service 5:15pm Women's Bible St 6:15 pm Advent Service 7pm Confirmation	22	23	24 3:00 pm Christmas Eve Service 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Service
25 10 am Christmas Day Worship	26 Church Office Closed	27	28 No Wed night service	29	30	31