



Paynesville Lutheran Church

December 2023
January 2024

*The monthly newsletter of
Paynesville Lutheran Church*

Point others to Jesus • Love generously and gracefully • Cultivate disciples



Paynesville Lutheran Church
657 Maple St.
Paynesville, MN 56362



Shepherds Voice



BLUE
CHRISTMAS

Blue Christmas Worship Thursday, December 21st - 7:00 pm

We understand this time of year can be difficult for many in our community and our Blue Christmas Worship is intended to acknowledge that reality. For those who have experienced loss or for whom Christmas is not a happy time, we offer this service as an opportunity to gather with others who are searching for light in the darkness. Whatever it is that may be making your Christmas season “blue,” we invite you to come and see the Light of Christ that shines in the darkness of our lives.

Sunday School Christmas Program

Join us Sunday, December 10th during our 9:00 am worship service for our Sunday School Christmas Program. Come and hear readings and songs from our students as part of our worship service.



The women's Bible study group meets on the second Thursday of every month at 10:00 in the church chapel. We use the Gather magazine Bible study, there are copies available for those who don't have one. We hope you will join us on Thursday, December 14 at 10:00am. All are welcome!

Weather Related Announcements



To check on weather related announcements pertaining to Paynesville Lutheran please check our website www.paynesvillelutheran.org, our Facebook page; Facebook.com/PaynesvilleLutheran, or the KWLM radio station. Please use your best judgment when venturing out during the winter months.

January Birthday Blessings to...

- 1 Karen Mehr
- 2 Bodie Martinson
- 3 Dale Hecht, Rebecca Meyer, Tegan Heimerman
- 4 Diane Hoyme
- 5 Gavin Stanger
- 6 Perry Yungk
- 7 Derek Ley
- 8 Chad Ahrendt
- 10 Betty Loomis, Corbin Price, Axel Tri, Jacob Wolbeck
- 11 Ashley Ley, Alyssa Ley, Linda Michaelis
- 12 Logan Utsch, Bill Koeckeritz
- 14 Rose Nepsund, Evan Jones
- 15 Nolan Reeck
- 16 Brock Bruntlett, Kennedy Kleist, Noah Larson
- 17 Kasey Mattheisen
- 20 Matthew Miller
- 22 Amy Ellefson, Jeffery Mattheisen
- 23 Autumn Fearing, Mardonna Grages, James Newgard
- 24 Cindy Kuhnau, Shannon Larson, Steve Swenson, Zachary Swenson, Christina Glasoe
- 25 Evie Sorensen, Andy Wendroth, Hayden Miller
- 26 Debra Bennett, Arlene McCalmant
- 27 Madison Hentges
- 28 Kristin Desm
- 30 Coy Price, Rylynn Robinson, Addison Scholten
- 31 Erin Bruntlett, Dallee Hecht, Alison Martinson, Paul Fagerberg, Garrett Albers

January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 3:00-9:30 pm Just for Kix	3 No afterschool or evening youth activities. No worship	4	5	6
7 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Fellowship/Education Hour	8 12:30 pm Quilters	9 3:00-9:30 pm Just for Kix	10 9:00 am Men's Bible Study 3:00 pm iQuest 5:20 pm Meal 6:00 pm Worship/Quest Program Sowers, Confirmation & Sr. High following worship 6:45 pm CELEBRATION Choir	11 10:00 am Women's Bible Study	12	13 2:00 pm-9:00 pm Fellowship Hall in use
14 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Fellowship/Education Hour 5:30 pm-8:00 pm Fellowship Hall in use	15 12:30 pm Quilters	16 3:00-9:30 pm Just for Kix	17 3:00 pm iQuest 5:20 pm Meal 6:00 pm Worship Sowers, Confirmation & Sr. High following worship 6:45 pm CELEBRATION Choir	18	19	20 2:00 pm-9:00 pm Fellowship Hall in use
21 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Fellowship/Education Hour	22 12:30 pm Quilters	23 3:00-9:30 pm Just for Kix	24 9:00 am Men's Bible Study 3:00 pm iQuest 5:20 pm Meal 6:00 pm Worship/Quest Program Sowers, Confirmation & Sr. High following worship 6:45 pm CELEBRATION Choir	25	26	27
28 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Fellowship/Education Hour 5:30 pm-8:00 pm Fellowship Hall in use	29 12:30 pm Quilters	30 3:00-9:30 pm Just for Kix	31 3:00 pm iQuest 5:20 pm Meal 6:00 pm Worship Sowers, Confirmation & Sr. High following worship 6:45 pm CELEBRATION Choir			

Operation Christmas Outreach

We are pleased to announce we will be working with our local Community Service Center again this year for our “Operation Christmas Outreach” November Mission of the Month!

For those of you who are not familiar with Operation Christmas Outreach: This is an outreach project that our entire congregation has embraced. Our mission of the month for November is to raise funds and awareness for those less fortunate; these funds are used to purchase Christmas gifts for teenagers in our community. This is our way of reaching out to our community and being the hands of Christ. What better time of the year to make Him known to others.

We ask that you pray for the teens in our area that will receive the gifts this Christmas season, that our church may make an everlasting impact that shows Christ loves them and has allowed us to share that love with them at Christmas and within our community each day.

We would encourage you to consider making a donation toward this project, you can do this by simply placing funds in an envelope within the offering and noting it is for “Operation Christmas Outreach” or you could mail your donation to church and ensure you mark it accordingly.



Christmas Kick-Off Party

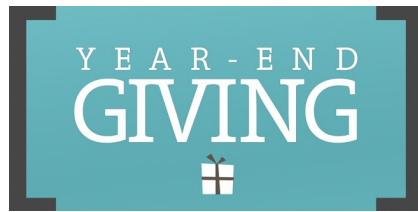
Join us on Sunday, December 3 from 2:00-4:00pm for our Christmas Kick Off Party put on by the PLC Youth and Family Board. There will be cocoa and Christmas movies. All kids age 3 and up are invited to join us. Parents can drop off their children and do some Christmas shopping or join us for family time.



The Amazing Story of Christmas

Join us Wednesday, December 13th at 6:00 pm for our iQuest Christmas Program. Come and hear readings and songs from our kindergarten—5th grade students.





With 2023 quickly drawing to a close now is the time to make your end of the year contributions to Paynesville Lutheran Church. We ask that all gifts be to the church office **no later than 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, December 27, 2023.** Thank you for your continued generosity toward the mission and ministry of PLC! We couldn't do it without you!

Poinsettias

It is hard to believe that it is that time of year again where we begin planning for the holidays. Again this year you have the opportunity to order poinsettias in memory or in honor of someone for our Christmas Eve Worship Services. Envelopes are available in the gathering area or you can contact the church office to order. **Cost of the poinsettias is \$12.00 Deadline to place orders is December 4th.**



Your support is essential to the mission and ministry of Paynesville Lutheran Church. Consistent giving is a help to this congregation as we plan for ministry expenses throughout the year. If you've found it challenging to give consistently, this may be an opportunity for you to begin doing so. We thank you in advance for all your continued gifts, financial and otherwise. Please contact the church office for more information.

Are You Heading South for the Winter?

If you are planning on going south for the winter please contact the church office as soon as possible. The sooner you are able to contact us the easier it will be to get things forwarded in a timely manner. If you gave us this information last year you still need to let us know so we can verify information.



December Birthday Blessings

- 1 Sig Pfeifer, Chris Stanley
- 2 Rebecca Doll, Paul Lura, Jazmin Williams, Christopher Fischer
- 3 Kyle Johnson
- 4 Alivia Buggs, Beckett Hanley
- 5 Jack Hennen, Lillian Swafford
- 6 Todd Lemke, Doris Nepsund, Tami Stanger, Jake Heimerman
- 7 Callie Hennen, Jean Soine
- 8 Judy Larsen, Todd Voigt
- 11 Lou Gabrielson
- 12 Cole Roufs
- 14 Delaney Ignace, Rylee Mumm
- 15 Shaelyn Desm, Jacob Arnold
- 16 Dawn Rajewsky, Kali Reiter, Emma Reiter
- 17 Jodee Buermann, Spencer Eisenbraun, Carolyn Welter
- 18 Rick Caldwell, Lynda George
- 19 Blake Williams
- 20 Logan Armstrong, Carol Desm, Wanda Haase, Gavin Swafford
- 21 Samuel Haines, Preston Welling
- 22 Beth Cook, Steve Lehmkuhl, Chuck Nelson
- 23 Kathryn Huselid, Adrean Louis, Carol Setterberg, Brylie Kotten
- 24 Janell Moburg, Kyler Tri
- 25 Vivian McMillan
- 26 Roy Colbert, Braydon Kierstead-Hahn
- 27 Courtney Hasbrook, Ann Lemke, Maggie Malling, Sara Miller
- 28 Amy Guzy,
- 30 Lauren Ellefson, Paige Welling
- 31 Wendy Karsch, Makullen Kleist, Drew Tangen, Josh Williams,

December 2023

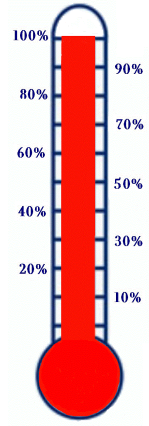
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3 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Fellowship/ Education Hour 2:00-4:00 pm Christmas Kick- Off Part	4 12:30 pm Quilters	5 3:00-9:30pm Just for Kix	6 3:00 pm iQuest 5:20 pm Meal 6:00 pm Worship Sowers, Confirmation & Sr. High \ 6-45 pm CELEBRATION Choir	7	8	9
10 9:00 am Worship/Sunday School Program 10:00am Fellowship/Education Hour 5:30 pm-8:00 pm Fellowship Hall in use	11 12:30 pm Quilters	12 3:00-9:30 pm Just for Kix	13 9:00 am Men's Bible Study 3:00 pm iQuest 5:20 pm Meal 6:00 pm Worship/iQuest Program Sowers, Confirmation & Sr. High \ 6-45 pm CELEBRATION Choir	14 10:00 am Women's Bible Study	15	16
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24 Christmas Eve No Morning Worship 3:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship 4:30 pm Christmas Eve Worship	25 Christmas Day 9:00 am Worship	26	27 9:00 am Men's Bible Study No afterschool or evening youth activities. No worship	28	29	30
31 9:00 am Worship-Service of Lessons and Carols 10:00am Fellowship/Education Hour						

Fill the Camp

It is cold outside and we are approaching the snowy season that means that there is no better time to remind you of the amazing work that we have done together through our “Fill The Camp” drive this past summer. The summer of 2023 was a wonderful summer to explore Bible camp and to grow closer to God through the joy and beauty of creation.

The summer of 2023 marked not only a great group of youth, adults and families attending Camp House Bible Camp together (as well as Luther Crest, Green Lake and Shores of St. Andrew Bible Camps), but it also meant raising funds to further broaden the impact of camp ministries on future generations.

Thanks to your generosity and care for this very important ministry of the church we raised **\$6,780.00!** This is in addition to the scholarships that were given as well! Thank you to all who participated through financial gifts and through your prayers!



Generosity

As we get closer to the end of the calendar year there are a few things that are helpful reminders. The first is thank you for your generosity. We as a church body can only exist with the support of our entire congregation. Thank you for sharing your time this year as you have volunteered with worships or events, and if you were unable to we would be honored to have you jump in and be a part of the ministry we share. We also give thanks for your offerings – these gifts are the only source we as a church have to support the ministry that we share.

Another reminder is that of address or phone changes. If your address is changing permanently or you are traveling to warmer weather let Tammy know in the office so that we can make that change and continue to be contact with you.

Finally, as the end of the year gets closer please bring your end of the year gifts to the church office by Wednesday, December 27, 2023 so that we can make sure that it gets on your 2023 financial statement of giving.

May God continue to bless the rest of this year and may we come to know Jesus even more deeply in 2024!





CHRISTMAS

AT PAYNESVILLE LUTHERN CHURCH

Sunday School iQuest and Program

Sunday, December 10th Sunday School Christmas Program
(9:00 am Worship Service.)

Wednesday, December 13th iQuest Christmas Program
(6:00 pm Worship Service)

Christmas Cantata

Sunday, December 17th Christmas Cantata
(9:00 am Worship Service)

Wednesday, December 20th Christmas Cantata
(6:00 pm Worship Service)

Blue Christmas

Thursday, December 21st Blue Christmas
(7:00 pm Service)

Christmas Eve Worship

Sunday, December 24th Christmas Eve Worship
3:00 pm & 4:30 pm Candle Lighting with Holy Communion
(No Morning Worship)

Christmas Day

Monday, December 25th Christmas Day
(9:00 am Worship Service)

New Year's Eve

December 31st Service of Lessons and Carols
(9:00 am Service)

Be Part of our Memorial Christmas Tree

Have you ever noticed the different trees that we have around our church building? Have you noticed the tree with all the ornaments and paper tags on it, that tree is our Memory Tree. The ornaments on that tree are given in memory of someone who has passed away and the ornaments usually have a special meaning for the family of that person. You can see who each ornament is remembering by looking at the tag connected to each one.

As we all know, the holidays can be a difficult time as we remember those who we have lost in the years past. If you would like to share an ornament in memory of someone that you love, please feel free to bring an ornament into the church office and we will get you set up with the tag to attach to the ornament. After Christmas the ornaments will be stored away until next year to be used again. As you notice the unique ornaments on the tree, please take a minute to pray for the families whose loved ones are memorialized on the tree.



Columbarium

The columbarium is a wonderful way for us to continue to minister to families during some of the most difficult times that we face. If you would like more information about the columbarium check out the churches website or contact the church office.



PLC Recycling Challenge

Paynesville Lutheran Church is embarking on a very important challenge. This one allows us all to do a small part to help our world and our environment. Simply put, we want your plastic grocery bags. And more! We're asking the congregation to routinely bring plastic bags and other "soft" plastic film products to the church and deposit them in recycling bins that have been set up throughout the building.

Paynesville Lutheran is participating in the NextTrex Plastic Film Recycling Challenge. Trex calls itself the world's largest manufacturer of wood alternative decking, railings and other outdoor living products, all created from a composite of reclaimed wood, sawdust and recycled plastic. Ninety-five percent of the materials in its products are recycled. The company is one of the nation's largest recyclers of polyethylene plastic. The material collected at PLC eventually will be shipped to a Trex manufacturing plant in the United States.

The recycling challenge begins on December 1, 2023. If we can collect at least 1000 pounds of plastic in twelve months, the church will receive a free Trex bench. But even if we don't reach that goal, we will be doing a good thing to help the environment.

RECYCLE BEYOND THE BAG

Recycle your household bags and wrap. These are acceptable items.

DO NOT INCLUDE THESE ITEMS IN NEXTREX® PROGRAMS


FROZEN FOOD BAGS


CANDY BAR WRAPPERS


CHIP BAGS


NET OR MESH PRODUCE BAGS


PET FOOD BAGS

OR THESE

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Degradable/compostable bags or film packaging ✗ Pre-washed salad mix bags ✗ Hot dog or meat wrap packaging 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Six-pack rings ✗ PPE- Gloves, masks, or protective wear ✗ Pool covers ✗ Lamination film ✗ Silage and hay bags 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Vinyl shower curtains or tablecloths ✗ Bedding or linen packaging ✗ Shiny, crinkly films like floral wrap ✗ Backyard ice rinks
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DON'T SEE YOUR ITEM ON THE LIST?

Try these tests to see if your plastic is acceptable or not.

See if the package will stretch when you pull it. If yes, it can be included. If it tears like paper, then please don't put in the bin.

Is the package shiny or does it make a crinkly/crunchy sound in your hand? If yes, do NOT recycle in the NextTrex® bin.

FROM THE STORE

- ✓ Produce bags
- ✓ Store bags
- ✓ Ice bags

FROM YOUR PANTRY

- ✓ Ziploc® & other reclosable bags
- ✓ Cereal box liners
- ✓ Case overwrap
- ✓ Bread bags

FROM YOUR FRONT DOOR

- ✓ Newspaper sleeves
- ✓ Dry cleaning bags
- ✓ Bubble wrap
- ✓ Plastic e-commerce mailers

Plastics must be clean, dry and free of food and organic residue








trex.com/recycling 1-800-Buy-Trex trex.com/recycling 540-542-6930

New Youth and Family Ministries Director

We are so excited to announce that a familiar face will be joining us on staff as our new Youth and Family Ministries Director. Beth Voss has been actively involved in the ministries on Wednesdays for many years and now she has agreed to take on a more direct role in helping us form relationships with our youth and families.

This role is a part time position similar to the recent past. Beth will be focusing her time on Wednesdays and will be officially starting in early December.

Welcome Beth we are so grateful for your presence and many gifts!



PLC Call Committee Update

Hiring a pastor is a bit of a strange and often lengthy process. Over the past year our call committee has worked diligently to listen to the Holy Spirit and prepare ourselves for the person God is preparing to serve with us. The task has become even more challenging due to the limited clergy available. The job market that has adversely affected the vast majority of positions has also affected pastoral positions. This is not something that we can do much about but it is something to be aware of as we wait patiently for the candidate that will serve alongside us in the future. Please continue to pray for the call committee and their efforts as well as the pastor that God is preparing to serve at PLC.

Call
Committee
Update



The Men's Bible study meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at PLC at 9:00am. Join us as we enjoy time together in Bible Study and fellowship.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Paynesville Lutheran Church annual meeting is a great opportunity for us to come together and give thanks for all the ways God has worked through us this past year and share together in the vision of how God is leading us in the upcoming year. More information coming soon. You wont want to miss it!