

# THE CALLER

The newsletter of First Christian Church of St. Paul, Minnesota.



## Advent 2014 @ First

November 30 marks the start of the season of Advent, the four weeks before Christmas when we await the coming of the Savior. Advent is a time to take stock of the world and prepare for Christ's coming into our world.

Here at First-St. Paul there are several opportunities to take a break from the hectic "Christmas Season" to worship and to help others.

On December 13, the Advent Cookie bake for the Aliveness Project takes place. Get ready to bake with us starting at 1PM.

December 17 at 6:30PM is an Advent Quiet Service, where we will spend time in prayer and in singing.

On Wednesdays during Advent (December 3, 10 and 17) join come to the Advent Prayer Room in the Library for a time of Quiet and Prayer from 6-8PM.

Join us for our second annual Christmas Sing-a-Long on December 24 at 6:30PM followed by the Christmas Eve Service at 7PM.

Join us this Advent and Christmas!

# The Great Halloween Debacle of 2014

## Words from First

By Dennis L. Sanders



We had the candy. We had the costumes. We had the cars. All we needed was the kids.

With the exception of one child, that did not happen. On a cold Halloween evening, members from First Christian-St. Paul dressed up in costumes and had cars decorated and candy at the ready. It was our first Trunk or Treat event. Despite efforts to invite neighborhood kids, no one showed up.



People left that evening very cold and with some dejected hearts. Members had gone through a lot to prepare and nothing seemed to come of it (I still have candy to eat-I mean, give away).

But, placing some space between the Great Halloween Debacle of 2014, I've come to the conclusion that it was a success.

Before you think I was out in the cold way too long, let me explain. Part of what we are trying to do at First-St. Paul is to be more active in the surrounding community. To get

beyond the walls of the church. And we did that on Halloween. Granted, it was a bust, but we were out doing mission in the community. We can lead the church outside the walls. We can't make the community be interested.

Sometimes ministry to the community is hit and miss. We had 60 or so people come and

listen to the music of Luke Swanger and Zach Peterson in July. A number of people were introduced to "the little church on the hill."

God calls us to be disciples,

preaching and teaching the good news of Jesus. But just because we are called doesn't mean we will always be successful. We are called to be faithful when we get 100 people at an event and we are called to faithful when two people show up.

I have heard people talk about what to do different next year (like, don't have the event on Halloween). That makes my heart glad because people are thinking of next year.

May God continue to bless this faith community as it seeks to minister to and with the community.

# Happenings

## Life together at First-St. Paul

### Lectionary Bible Study

We meet on Wednesdays at 7PM. Join us as we take a look at the passage that will be preached on that coming Sunday. In November and December, we will not meet on the following dates: November 26 (day before Thanksgiving), December 24 (Christmas Eve) and December 31 (New Year's Eve).

### Monthly Potluck

It's a Potluck! Join us December 13 after worship in the North Basement.

### Needed at the Food shelf

During the month of November, we will be collecting spices for the Mahtomedi Area Food shelf. So, bring salt, pepper, oregano, allspice, garlic and other spices to church. You can drop off your items in

the lobby. In December, we will be collecting toiletries including the following: shampoo; soap; deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes and toilet paper.

### Church Board Meeting

There will be no church board meeting during the month of December. Our next meeting will take place January 20 at 5:30PM.

### First Read

The Next First Read will take place in late January 2015. We will discuss *The Kingdom Conspiracy* by Scot McKnight. The book is available on Amazon and should be at your local book store. We will announce the date in the January Caller.

Listen Again, or for the First Time.

[fccstpaul.com/sermons](http://fccstpaul.com/sermons)



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The Newsletter of First Christian Church of St. Paul, Minnesota

650 Wildwood Road  
 Mahtomedi, MN 55115  
 (651) 779-3033  
[fccstpaul.com](http://fccstpaul.com)

### Staff

Dennis Sanders: Supply Pastor.  
 Chris Wogaman: Interim Musician.  
 Luke Swanger: Interim Musician.

*First Christian Church-St. Paul is a Christian community centered in faith, mission and fellowship.*

# Happenings

## Life together at First-St. Paul

### Advent Cookie Bake

Join us on Saturday, December \_\_ at 1PM as we gather to make cookies for a good cause. Bring your best cookie recipe and join us as we make cookies for the Aliveness Project, a Twin Cities-based charity helping those with HIV/AIDS and other chronic diseases have healthy food to eat.

### Advent Prayer Room

Beginning Wednesday, December 3 the Treat Room (Library) will be available for times of quiet, rest and prayer during the Advent Season. The Prayer Room will be open on Wednesdays (December 3,10,17)from 6PM-8PM.

### Mission Sunday

Fourth Sunday is always Mission Sunday at First. Please bring your loose change to support one of our Mission Partners. On November 23 the offering will go to support Solid Ground. We will have a special Mission Sunday offering on November 30 for New Roots Ministry, a Disciples/United Methodist church start north of Fargo, North Dakota. On December 28 will collect money to support the Mahtomedi Area Foodshelf.

### Volunteer at Hope for the Journey Shelter in 2015

The 2015 dates to volunteer at Hope for the Journey Shelter have been set. The five church coalition that includes First will

volunteer the weeks of January 12, May 4 and October 5. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Janice Paulson.

### Mitten Tree

Starting in early December , we will have a mitten tree. Please consider donating children's hats and mittens. Our donations will support Hats and Mittens, a local charity that helps children experiencing homelessness.

### Christmas Eve Sing-a-Long

On December 24 at 6:30PM, we will have our second annual sing-a-long. Chris Wogaman will be at the piano playing Christmas carols (and he does take requests!). Come and join us at 6:30PM and stay for the Christmas Eve Service at 7PM.

### Feed My Starving Children

Our next time to pack food is on Saturday, January 10, 2015 at the FMSC facility in Coon Rapids starting at 11:30AM. If you would like to go, fill out the sign up sheet in the lobby.

# 2014 Christmas Offering

THE CALLER November-December 2014

**The Annual Offering to Support Regions of the Christian Church will be received December 21**

Matthew's story of the Wise Men who come seeking the newborn King is a familiar one, re-enacted in countless Christmas pageants every year. Amidst the costumes, animals, shepherds and mangers crowded into most depictions of the Nativity, the gifts they bring often are seen as just props for the Magi to carry. Yet they are far more than that.

Scholars believe the Wise Men came from ancient Persia (modern day Iran), and early Christian art often depicts them in Persian clothing. If so, their journey was long and arduous—and even as it neared its end finding “the one who has been born king” was not easy. He was not to be found in Jerusalem, the Holy City, as they expected, but in the tiny village of Bethlehem; even there they had to search for him.

Yet when they found the Child, they were prepared. Bowing down, they worshiped him. “Then they opened their treasures and

presented him with gifts of gold and of incense [frankincense] and of myrrh” (Matthew 2:11), gifts that they had carried with them all the way from Persia, extravagant gifts fit for a King.

We may think ourselves incapable of giving such gifts until we remember that the good news of Jesus' birth also came to common folk like the shepherds, and that extravagance comes in many forms. For the shepherds, it came in the form of praising God. For you, maybe it will be in doing mission together in response to a disaster or on an immersion trip to learn about another culture. Your extravagant gift to the Christmas offering, whether large or small, supports the many ways Disciples across your region discover and

share their gifts of ministry. Whatever gift you bring, give it joyfully; that's the kind of giving that makes God smile, and therein lies the secret of its extravagance.

As we celebrate anew the Good News of God-with-us, the coming of our Lord, what gifts shall we bring? Whatever it is, may we present them in humble thanksgiving and with joyful extravagance!



# Prayer Requests November-December 2014

## In Our Prayers

- Jeff Halseth’s mom, Barbara, has moved to hospice care.
- Vern Stenback has a chronic lung condition.
- Charles Moore’s nephew, Charlie, treated for cancer.
- John Paulson’s dad.
- Dorothy Cordes and Edna Lundgren other homebound members.
- Dave Peightal, Tom Knobel, and all driving trucks.
- Missy Stone’s great nephew, Carter.
- For Jeff Halseth’s Sister-In-Law who is being treated for cancer.
- Those seeking work.
- Prayers for David Neilsen, a friend of Charles and Linda Moore who is dealing with total kidney failure.

- Chris Wogaman who is recovering from intestinal issues.

If you have a prayer concern to share leave a message by phone at (651) 779-3033 or by email at [fccmahtomedi@gmail.com](mailto:fccmahtomedi@gmail.com).

If you have something you would like to have in the newsletter, please contact Pastor Dennis. Submissions can be sent to [fccmahtomedi@gmail.com](mailto:fccmahtomedi@gmail.com). Please send your items by the 20th of the month.

Are you in need of financial assistance? Do you live in the Mahtomedi School District? The Good Neighbor Club of Mahtomedi & Willernie is available to provide Emergency or temporary financial help and assistance for School District 832 residents. Janet 651-429-7212, Arlita 426-2291, Terri 491-6335. To learn more about the Good Neighbor Club visit them online at [mahtomedignc.org](http://mahtomedignc.org).



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# First Christian-St. Paul Calendar

## November-December 2014

### Wednesday, Nov 19

1:00PM Pastor's Hours until 5:30PM

7:00PM Bible Study

### Sunday, Nov 23

9:30 AM Worship

9:45AM Children's Bible Study

### Wednesday, Nov 26

*No Pastor's Hours or Bible Study*

### Sunday, Nov 30

9:30 AM Worship

9:45AM Children's Bible Study

### Wednesday, Dec 3

1:00PM Pastor's Hours until 5PM

6:00PM Prayer Room Open

7:00PM Bible Study

### Sunday, Dec 7

9:30 AM Worship

9:45AM Children's Bible Study

### Wednesday, Dec 10

1:00PM Pastor's Hours to 5PM

6:00PM Prayer Room Open

7:00PM Lectionary Bible Study

### Saturday, Dec 13

1:00PM Advent Cookie Bake

### Sunday, Dec 14

9:30 AM Worship

9:45AM Children's Bible Study

10:30AM Potluck

### Wednesday, Dec 17

1:00PM Pastor's Hours to 5PM

6:00PM Prayer Room Open

7:00PM Lectionary Bible Study

### Sunday, Dec 21

9:30 AM Worship

9:45AM Children's Bible Study

### Wednesday, Dec 24

1:00PM Pastor's Hours to 5PM

6:30PM Christmas Carol Sing-a-Long

7:00PM Christmas Eve Service

### Sunday, Dec 28

9:30 AM Worship

9:45AM Children's Bible Study

### Wednesday, Dec 31

1:00PM Pastor's Hours to 3PM

THE CALLER November-December 2014

## First Christian Church of St. Paul

Faith. Mission. Community.

Dennis Sanders- Stated Supply Pastor

**Phone: (651) 779-3033**

**Web: [fccstpaul.com](http://fccstpaul.com)**

**Email: [info@fccstpaul.com](mailto:info@fccstpaul.com)**

Join us for worship  
Sunday at 9:30am.



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