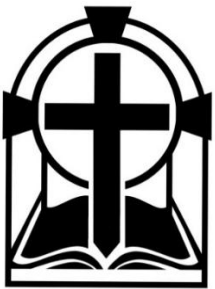




Everlasting Joy

Third Sunday in Advent

December 14, 2025



St. Paul Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod
Columbus, Indiana

Welcome to St. Paul!

We are glad that you have come to God's house to be fed and strengthened by His holy Word. The order of service for today is printed on the **insert** in this bulletin. Guests, we extend a special welcome to you this morning. We are privileged to have you as our guest today and encourage you to worship with us again soon.

The Family Quiet Room and Restroom are located outside the doors of the sanctuary and to the left. In the Family Quiet Room, you can hear and see the service. **Assisted hearing devices** are available for the service. Please contact an usher.

Do you need prayer support? Please call Bonnie England at **812-447-7895** to activate our **Prayer Chain**. Your fellow church members will pray for you.

Our Communion Practice: We invite and encourage those who have been instructed, confirmed, and confess the faith of this congregation and other congregations of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to receive the Sacrament. Communicants at this altar acknowledge their sins, believe that the body and blood of Christ are truly present in the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, and desire the Spirit's help to turn from their sins.

Those who are not communing are invited to come forward and receive a blessing by placing their arms across their chest.

If you have questions regarding our Communion teaching and practice, please speak to a pastor.

Communion Preparation: To prepare for the Lord's Supper, you may wish to pray the prayer on the inside cover of the hymnal or review the Christian Questions and Answers on pages 329-330.

Today's Christian Education Opportunities

First Steps of Faith (Infants and Toddlers with a parent) meets in the conference room
Sunday School classes for ages three-sixth grade
Confirmation Class meets in the confirmation room
SPY Class (grades 9-12) meets in the youth room
Bible Study in the fellowship room studying the Nicene Creed

Serving Today

Organist: Kantor Dan Mau
Columbus String Quartet

Acolytes: 8 AM Service Julia Burbrink
10:45 AM Service Clark Neawedde

Church Calendar

Pastor Patterson on Vacation Tomorrow-December 23rd

Today	8:00 AM Divine Service 9:00 AM Radio Service WYGS 91.1 FM 9:10 AM Fellowship 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Divine Service—English and Spanish Noon Lunch 12:15 PM Spanish Bible Study 12:15 PM Youth Confirmation 12:15 PM Choristers Rehearsal 12:45 PM Jr. Handchimes Rehearsal 1:15 PM Jr. Handbells Rehearsal 3:00 PM Christmas Caroling 5:00 PM Christmas Family Fun Night 7:00 PM Lutheran Hour WYGS 91.1 FM
Monday	9:30 AM Homeschool Religion Class 10:00 AM Small Group Handbells 5:30 PM Girl Scouts
Tuesday	5:30-9:30 PM Church Reserved
Wednesday	9:00 AM Bible Study 10:15 AM Matins Service Noon-9 PM Church Reserved 5:45 PM Sr. Handbells 6:45 PM Advent Service 7:45 PM Sr. Choir ECM Parents Day <i>Church Office Closed/No Extended Care</i> 8:20 AM Chapel 1:30 PM Hickory Creek Visit
Friday	5:30-8:30 PM Parents Night Out
Saturday	9:00-10:30 AM Children's Service Rehearsal 5:00 PM Las Posadas Service and Fiesta
Next Sunday	8:00 AM Divine Service 9:00 AM Radio Service WYGS 91.1 FM 9:10 AM Fellowship 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Children's Christmas Service Noon Confirmation Make-up Session 6:40 PM Pre-Concert Harp Recital 7:00 PM Christmas Concert 7:00 PM Lutheran Hour WYGS 91.1 FM

Third Sunday in Advent

Prelude

String Quartet

Welcome and Announcements

Please sign the Record of Fellowship

Ringing of the Bell

Opening Hymn

Please stand for stanza five

345

Confession of Sins

pages 184-185

Introit

from Psalm 71:14–18; Philippians 4:4

P Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. I will hope continually and will praise You yet more and more. My mouth will tell of Your righteous acts, of Your deeds of salvation all the day, for their number is past my knowledge. With the mighty deeds of the Lord God I will come; I will remind them of Your righteousness, Yours alone. O God, from my youth You have taught me, and I still proclaim Your wondrous deeds. So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim Your might to another generation, Your power to all those to come.

C *(all sing—page 186)* **Glory be to the Father and to the Son...**

Kyrie

page 186

The Gloria in Excelsis is omitted during Advent. The service continues with the Salutation and Collect for the Day.

Salutation and Collect for the Day

page 189

P The Lord be with you.

C *(sung)* **And with thy spirit.**

P Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C *(sung)* **Amen.**

please be seated

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading

James 5:7-11

[James writes:] Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be

patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Triple Alleluia

please stand page 190

G (sung) Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 11:2-15

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew 11th chapter.

G (sung) Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

Now when John [the Baptist] heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to Him, "Are You the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by Me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written, "'Behold, I send My messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.'

Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G (sung) Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

page 191

Little Sermon

Hymn of the Day

349

Sermon

Everlasting Joy

Isaiah 35:1-10

Offering

String Quartet

Prayer of the Church

please stand

Service of the Sacrament

pages 194-198

Distribution

333, 353, 354, 636

Visitors: Please read our Communion statement on the inside front cover of the bulletin.

Closing Liturgy

please stand pages 199-202

Closing Hymn

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Postlude

Hark the Glad Sound—J. Behnke

*Thanks to the String Quartet for enriching our services this morning
Jiangzhongnuo Tao and Vanessa Edwards—violin; Ila Rondeau—viola; His-Yuan Kao—cello*

Everlasting Joy

Isaiah 35:1-10

*The theme for the Third Sunday in Advent is Joy.
Where is the joy in God's Word for us today? Where is the joy in our lives?*

True joy is in J_____, a rejoicing in the L_____ always!

There is joy for your Lord has come to s_____, r_____, and r_____ you.

Like the Israelites in Babylon, we are e_____ and strangers in this world.

Our God comes to us now through His Word and Supper. According to our text, what does God do for us as He comes to us through His means of grace?

As we travel through the wilderness of this world, we are on the W_____ of H_____.

At our Lord's final advent, He will take us and all believers to the eternal Z_____ where our joy will never end.

Next Sunday's Readings—Fourth Sunday in Advent

8 AM Divine Service: Isaiah 7:10–17; Romans 1:1–7; Matthew 1:18–25

10:45 AM Children's Christmas Service: "Built on the Rock"

LIVING THE SERMON... Advent reminds us that we are strangers and pilgrims in this world. However, we are tempted to become too comfortable with this world, forgetting that we are passing through on the Way to everlasting joy. Reflect on your journey. Are you so caught up in the here and now that you have lost sight of the eternal Jerusalem and the joy that awaits you there? Are you seeking to find joy in things of the world rather than rejoicing in the Lord? Repent when you have yielded to these temptations and seek the Spirit's help to remain faithful and to rejoice in the Lord throughout your earthly pilgrimage anticipating the eternal joy that is to come.

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH... Give thanks for the baby born in Bethlehem, your source of everlasting Joy! Rejoice that He is the Way that leads to eternal joy. Pray that you would continue to seek the Lord, His strength and His peace as you travel through this world.

MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK... *Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and give birth to a son, and shall call His name Immanuel. Isaiah 7:14*

Advent and Christmas Services and Events

Today—Christmas Family Fun Night: 3 PM Caroling; 5 PM Supper, Activities, and Gingerbread House Decorating
Wednesday, December 17th—6:45 PM Midweek Advent Service
Friday, December 19th—5:30-8:30 PM Parents Night Out
Saturday, December 20th—5 PM Las Posadas Service and Fiesta
Sunday, December 21st—10:45 AM Children's Christmas Service; Rehearsal is Saturday, December 20th, 9-10:30 AM
Sunday, December 21st—7 PM Christmas Concert; 6:40 PM Pre-concert harp recital
Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24th—5:30 PM Candlelight Service—Carol singing begins at 5:10 PM;
10 PM Communion and Candlelight Service—Carol singing begins at 9:40 PM
Christmas Day, Thursday, December 25th—10 AM Festival Communion Service
Sunday, December 28th—9:30 AM Youth Christmas Party (grades 7-12) in the education building
New Year's Eve, Wednesday, December 31st—5:30 PM Divine Service
Friday-Saturday, January 2-3 Aurora Circuit Youth Lock-in at St. John's, Aurora (grades 6-12)
Sunday, January 4th—Celebration of Epiphany with Installation of Officers

Poinsettias

Thanks to all who donated poinsettias to beautify our church this sacred season

Jim and Kathy Brock	Bill and Pat McKale	Joshua Weichman
Bob and Karen Burbrink	Corbin and Kate Oliver	Phillip and Connie Weichman
Wilbur and Bonnie England	Colin and Linda Scheidt	Paul and Lisa Wendel
Greg and Chris Forbes	Chad and Debbie Sims	Henry and Lois Wischmeier
	Skip and Kris Taylor	

In Memory Of...

Ralph and Donna Thomas and Kenneth and Marjorie Arnholt from Joe and Susan Arnholt
Ken Bense from Julia Bense
Jenny McCoy from Brent and Sarah Bodem
Karen Booher and Jim Baute from Jeff and Mary Booher
Erica Greathouse from the Branaman family
All the Saints who have gone before us from Mike and Mary Bridges
Gary Brown from Marilyn, Nola and Patrick Brown
Paul Gannon, Theresa Gannon, Rick Sapper and Esther Hildner from Jim and Nora Cleary
Thomas Hartenberger and Bruce and Janice Carnahan from Dawn Deiwert
Gary Woods from Gloria Gelfius
Doug Feller from Paul, Sarah, Emma, and Lily Gibson
Myron Glick from Marybeth Glick
Lynn B Hoeltke from Beverly Hoeltke
Kathy and Kristy Hoover from Willie Hoover
Diane Jackson and Ken Miller from Tom Jackson
Bryan Shane Sutton from Danny and Sandy Johnson
Jerry and Nancy Maslowski and Jason Maslowski from Eric and Sariina Kalli
Kimberly Morgan from Marilyn Kubicek
Linda Lykins from Logan and Allison Lykins and family
Dr Ben Bolling Pence from Eric
Clive & Helen Pankow and Homer, Fern, Mike, Jim and Kay Newton from Susan Newton, Loisann Ayala

Don Nolting from Lucy Nolting and family
Larry Nunn from Mary Ann Nunn, Lisa, Jason, Emma and William DeBord
Jean Heller from Pastor and Tammy Patterson
Ben Pence from Evelyn Pence and David and Melissa Pevlor and family
Vernon Jewell from Sloan Rittman and Caleb Davidson
Charles and Etta Faye Forster, Walter and Wilma Sasse and Hans Gunter and Edith Lichte from John and Donna Sasse
Don and Harriett Scheidt and Keith and Beulah Thompson from Eric and Linda Scheidt
George and Joann Gordon and Virgil and Bettie Scheidt from Warren and Molly Scheidt
Our parents from Dan and Taffy Schroer
Kristie Jo Wessel from Don and Debbie Schroer
Harold and Isabelle Schroer from Jason and Laurie Schroer
Our parents from Jeff and Claudette Schroer
David and Vicki Schwartzkopf from Joann Schwartzkopf
Guy Hudson and Dub Scrougham and Frances Hundley from the Scrougham family
Virgil Seifer from Jennifer and Ethan Seifer
H Gene Strietelmeier from Don Strietelmeier, Scott, Renee and Jacob Strietelmeier, Suzanne Strietelmeier
and Paul and Sara Nash
John Tellman from Marie and Jan Tellman
Harold and Lois Voelz and Earl and Erika Miller and John Gottfried from Steve and Jan Voelz
Cora Waterman and Jim and Kathy Wint from Daniel, Mackenzie, Nora and Mia Wint

In Thanksgiving for...

The gift of our children, Adam and Sarah, from Brian and Jackie Arnholt
Our grandchildren, Parker and Crew, from Joe and Susan Arnholt
Our church family from Dale and Sam Behrman
Family from Julia Bense
Our children and grandchildren from Mike and Mary Bridges
Our family from Dave and Vicki Howarth
My beautiful wife, Toni, from Jacob Howarth
Our grandparents, Joe and Ellen Weaver, from Maddie, Andrew and Lauren Johnson
Our children, Reid and Ridge from Jason and Shannon Koester
My parents – John and Sandy Lagneau – from Marilyn Kubicek
Our family and church family from Sandy and Johnny Lagneau
Our church and school staff from Bruce and Natalie Pollert
God's abundant blessings from the Probst family
Our church and school from Janice and Tim Scheidt
Grandchildren from Warren and Molly Scheidt
Our grandchildren from Don and Debbie Schroer and family
The Pastors of St Paul Lutheran Church from Dee Schurman
All our blessings from Renee, Scott and Jacob Strietelmeier
Our parents and the gift of our children from Eddie and Jessica Vogel
Our children and grandchildren from Doug and Wendy Wiederhoeft
Our grand and great grandchildren from Mike and Wilma Yeley

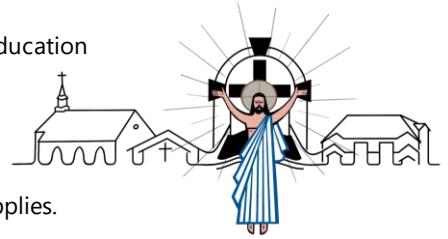
In Honor of...

Grandpa Stache from Ben Baker
Everyone at church from James Deck and Gloria Dias Perez

Extending Christ's Love

Construction Has Begun!

It is exciting to witness the beginning of construction of our Christian Education Center. As weather permits, sitework will continue in preparation for the building's foundation. The steel has been ordered and will be delivered in the coming weeks. **Parking:** During weekday hours of 7 AM-5 PM, please park on the east side (sanctuary side) of the church parking lot, keeping the west side of the lot open for construction equipment and supplies.



Thanks for Your Generous Support!

Through your generosity, Baking for the Building and the Silent Auction raised more than **\$7,000** for Extending Christ's Love. Thanks to all who donated baked goods and auction items and those who participated. Please pick up your auction items today, if you have not already done so.

Playground Project

Thanks to the generosity of church members as well as current and former early childhood ministry families, we need **\$12,723** to reach our fundraising goal for the new playground at the Christian Education Center. We have raised nearly 90% of the funds needed for this project! Every gift given is matched dollar-for-dollar thanks to an anonymous donor.

Grant Received

We have been awarded a \$25,000 grant through the Center for Congregations designated for architect fees for the Christian Education Center. This is the fourth and final grant that we are eligible for and have received through the planning process from the Center for Congregations. All four grants together total \$80,000! We rejoice in all the ways God continues to provide for this endeavor, including your generosity!

Youth Events

KfC (Kids for Christ—fifth graders and younger)

Today—Join us for Christmas caroling at 3 PM and share Christmas joy to our shut-in and homebound members. Our Christmas Family Fun Night begins at 5 PM. Family and friends are invited to join us for an evening of food fun! We begin our time together with a meal. After supper, families will be invited to decorate a gingerbread house that they can take home.



SPY (high schoolers) and C4Life (sixth-eighth grade)

Today—Christmas Caroling and Christmas Family Fun Night

Join us for Christmas caroling at 3 PM and supper and gingerbread house decorating at 5 PM. SPY and C4Life youth can decorate their own gingerbread house. Bring a bag or two of candy to share.

Sunday, December 28th—Youth Christmas Party

During the Sunday School hour, youth in grades 7-12 will walk up the hill to the Education Building for their annual Christmas party. Our gift exchange this year is *Your Favorite Christmas Treat*.

Friday-Saturday, January 2-3, 2026—Aurora Circuit Lock-In

Youth in grades 6-12 and their friends are invited to a fun-filled night of learning, growing, snow tubing, and building relationships with other youth. Sign up by contacting DCE Probst or on the clipboard in the Sunday School hallway. Deadline to sign-up is **next Sunday, December 21st**.

Friends are always welcome! For more information, contact DCE Jen Probst or a youth counselor.

2026-2027 ECM Registration is now open!

We need your help in promoting our Christ-centered, fully accredited early learning center! We are making significant enhancements to our kindergarten instruction for the coming school year:

- ❖ Extending our educational day to reflect a full 4 hours of learning (8:15 AM to 12:15 PM).
- ❖ Including STREAM (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Art, Math) tuition as a part of the full scholarship kindergarten students receive.
- ❖ Offering kindergarten families complimentary, flexible pick up for their kindergarten student until 2:30 PM and affordable extended care options before school and after 2:30 PM.
- ❖ Commitment to offering low teacher to student ratios for quality instruction (1:10).

All registration is online so encourage families to visit the church website (stpaulcolumbus.org) to learn more and to register. Families are also invited to tour our school. Please contact Director Jen Probst to schedule a tour. Financial aid is available to all families so that no student is turned away. Please contact Jen Probst for details.

Online Giving

You can set up your tithing completely online! Follow the link below or QR code on the last page of the bulletin to access our secure, online giving platform. If you forgot to bring cash or check to worship today, you can give a one-time donation at any time through our website where we accept ACH or credit card payments. You can also create recurring donations that happen weekly or monthly. And better yet, you have complete control over any adjustments or modifications that need to be made at any time. You can also indicate specific designations for your donation such as general fund, in memory of, Extending Christ's Love etc. Members and guests are finding this to be a great, convenient way to donate to our church. If you have more questions or would like help setting up your online tithing, please reach out to Rachel Fohne at financialsecretary@stpaulcolumbus.org or 812-343-3786. Thank you for your generous financial support that helps us fund our mission and ministry at St. Paul!

Visit the Link: <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z2RE/campaign/C-125CF>

St Paul Scholarship Granting Organization

Donate to our Lutheran Scholarship Granting Organization at St. Paul!

A donation to our St. Paul SGO directly benefits our Early Childhood Ministry by helping us fund our mission and ministry! And, even better, you as a donor are eligible to receive a 50% tax credit on your Indiana taxes. You can eliminate a portion or all of your Indiana tax liability!

Did you know you can donate publicly traded securities such as stocks, bonds, and mutual funds?

For example, a stock donation valued at \$10,000 could result in the following benefits:

- \$5,000 tax credit for your Indiana state tax due
- No need to worry about capital gains because the stock gift is a charitable contribution
- \$5,000 deduction eligibility for your federal taxes due for those who itemize rather than take the standard deduction
- Knowing that you made scholarships possible for families to receive a Christ-centered education!

Consider donating by December 31, 2025, so that you can receive your tax credit when you file your 2025 taxes! Please consult with your tax advisor.

Please contact Rachel Fohne for more information at financialsecretary@stpaulcolumbus.org or 812-343-3786. You can also visit www.lutheransgo.org for more information!

2025-2026 St. Paul SGO Fundraising Goal \$135,000

Amount Raised as of November 30, 2025: **\$60,421.36**

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

PRESENTED BY

Second Presbyterian Church
Beecher Singers & Orchestra



Dr. Michelle Louer, Director
Dr. John Allegar, Organist



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2025, 7:00 P.M.

PRE-CONCERT HARP RECITAL, 6:40 P.M.



St. Paul Lutheran Church
6045 E. State Street, Columbus, Indiana

You are cordially invited to attend.
Admission is free.

IN OUR PRAYERS...Marriage: Bryan and Kailey (Smith) Davidson; **Sick and Recovering:** Marie Tellman (surgery Wednesday), Jim Brock, Beverly Neawedde, Gerald Helt, Jim Probst, Jill Scheidt, Bob and Marilyn Runge, Marilyn Brown, Mary Putz (Anne Wiltsey's mother), Deb Larsen and Ozzy Hentges (Kallis' friends), Curt Carothers, Al Abrams (Pam Roth's brother), Mike Greve (Nora Cleary's cousin), Marcia Carson and Linda Hall (Gayla Alesandro's friends), Jami Maher (Joanne Kirby's niece), Bob McDonald (Wendy Wiederhoeft's father), Margaret Osmon (Nancy Dyer's sister), Ed Vogel (Eddie Vogel's father), William Leitshuh (Clearys' friend), Marilyn Gifford and Sherry Hart (Hinds' friends); **Active Military:** Garrett McGaha, Evan Rickus, Shane McGowen (Sally Haak's nephew), Peyton Mullins (Sperrys' friend), Ty Chamberlain (Taffy Schroer's relative)

UNITED IN CHRIST... Congratulations and God's blessings to Bryan and Kailey (Smith) Davidson who were united as husband and wife yesterday.

IN THE GATHERING SPACE...

- + 2026 Offering Envelopes
- + January Newsletter, also online at stpaulcolumbus.org
- + January-March 2026 *Portals of Prayer*
- + New edition of the *Lutheran Women's Quarterly*

PASTOR PATTERSON ON VACATION... Pastor and Tammy will be visiting family and celebrating his father's birthday, leaving tomorrow, December 15th and returning Tuesday, December 23rd. If you need pastoral care, please contact Pastor Fickenscher or Pastor Bauman.

SUNDAY LUNCHES... The January-May sign-up sheet for Sunday lunches is posted in the gathering space. Please sign up if you would like to serve.

Today—Taco Bar

December 21st and 28th—No lunch served; Christmas Break

January 4th—Lasagna and Garlic Bread

January 11th—Chicken Wraps

CHRISTMAS CAROLING... This afternoon, join us as we carol to our Columbus area shut-ins. Meet at church at 3 PM and we will return by 5 PM for Christmas Family Fun Night.

CHRISTMAS FAMILY FUN NIGHT... is this evening beginning at 5 PM (following Christmas caroling). We will gather for a supper of hot dogs, sloppy joes, veggies

with dip, baked beans, chips, cookies, hot chocolate, and drinks served by the Tri-W. Supper will be followed by gingerbread house decorating and other family activities. Please bring a bag or two of candy for the gingerbread house decorating.

MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICE... Our final Midweek Advent Service is **this Wednesday, December 17th** at 6:45 PM with the theme: *Christ Will Come Again*.

PARENTS DAY... is **this Thursday, December 18th**. You are invited to worship with our school families at chapel which begins at 8:20 AM. Due to entire staff assisting with Parents Day, the church office will be closed on Thursday.

PARENTS NIGHT OUT... Moms in the Word is hosting a Parents Night Out event **this Friday, December 19th** from 5:30-8:30 PM. Drop off your kids in their favorite Christmas jammies and pick them up fed and ready for bed! This event is a fundraiser for the new playground with all funds matched dollar for dollar. Call or text Andrea Cotton to RSVP at 812-344-4580.

LAS POSADAS SERVICE AND FIESTA... This Saturday, **December 20th** at 5 PM, our Latino outreach will be hosting Las Posadas Service. This is a traditional service in Latin America that recounts Mary and Joseph's difficulty in finding a place to spend the night on the first Christmas. A fiesta will follow the service in the fellowship room, with fajitas, rice, and drinks provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Although the service will be in Spanish, a bilingual bulletin will be provided. This would be a good way for you and your family to experience Latino culture and food.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE... is **next Sunday, December 21st** during the 10:45 AM service. The theme is *Built on the Rock*. Rehearsal for the service is **this Saturday, December 20th** from 9-10:30 AM.

Communion next Sunday: Due to the Children's Service, Communion will be offered following the 10:45 AM service.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT... The Beecher Singers and Orchestra will return **next Sunday, December 21st** at 7 PM to present their tenth Christmas concert at St. Paul. Pre-concert harp recital at 6:40 PM. Please invite your friends and neighbors to attend this inspiring concert.

CHRISTMAS SEASON BULLETIN DEADLINES... The deadline for both the December 28th and January 4th bulletins is **Monday, December 22nd** at 8 AM.

The church office will be closed for the Christmas season **Tuesday, December 23rd-Friday, January 2nd**. If you need pastoral care during this time, please contact a pastor directly.

50th ANNIVERSARY OPEN HOUSE.. The family of Jeff and Debbie Otte invite you to a 50th anniversary open house on **Saturday, December 27th** from 11 AM-2 PM at the fellowship room. Please RSVP to Joe Otte at 812-603-8371 by next Sunday, December 21st.

The Response of God's People

Wednesday, December 3rd

Midweek Advent Service: **85**

Sunday, December 7th

Divine Service: **403**

Communion: **309**

Sunday School: **166**

Offering

General Fund: **\$21,176.01**

Weekly Need: \$15,933

Extending Christ's Love: **\$60,939** including \$3,825 Silent

Auction and \$155 Playground

SGO Gifts: \$3,000 in memory of Kathy Wint-Hoover,

\$1,000 in memory of H. Gene Strietelmeier

Earl Stam Memorial: \$100



GIVE

St. Paul Lutheran Church and Early Childhood Ministry

6045 East State Street, Columbus, Indiana 47201

812-376-6504; www.stpaulcolumbus.org

Pastor Doug Bauman; pastorbauman@stpaulcolumbus.org; 812-350-4115

Pastor Jeff Patterson; pastorpatterson@stpaulcolumbus.org; 812-569-2471

Pastor Daniel Fickenscher; pastorfickenscher@stpaulcolumbus.org; 260-710-6750

Kantor Daniel Mau; kantor@stpaulcolumbus.org; 812-927-9319

DCE Jen Probst; director@stpaulcolumbus.org; 765-491-7818

Secretary Mackenzie Wint; secretary@stpaulcolumbus.org; 812-528-1176

Financial Secretary Rachel Fohne; financialsecretary@stpaulcolumbus.org; 812-343-3786

Latino Outreach Coordinator Renee Strietelmeier; riskplants@yahoo.com; 812-343-6466

Social Media Coordinator Andrea Cotton; socialmedia@stpaulcolumbus.org; 812-344-4580

ECM Teachers: Anne Wiltsey (kindergarten); Michelle Schultz, Alyssa Schultz, Glory Wofford (preschool)

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Reaching out with Christ's Love to Serve and Grow