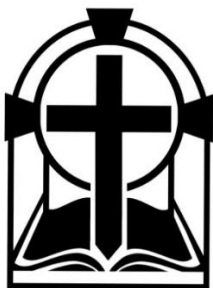




Heir, Member, Partaker

Epiphany Celebration Sunday

January 4, 2026



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)
Sunday School classes for ages three-sixth grade
Confirmation Instruction (grades 7-8) led by Pastor Patterson
Sr. High Youth in the Youth Room led by Mrs. Probst
Christian Leadership Class meets in the Music Room led by Zach Mathews
Bible Study meets in the fellowship room studying the Nicene Creed

Serving Today

Organist: Kantor Dan Mau
Acolytes: 8 AM Service Naomi Lewis
10:45 AM Service Emma Gibson

Church Calendar

Today

Celebration of Epiphany

Mite Box 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 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

7:00 PM Lutheran Hour WYGS 91.1 FM

Monday

10:00 AM Homeschool Religion Class

10:00 AM Moms in the Word

10:00 AM Small Group Handbells

Tuesday

Epiphany Day

9:00 AM-Noon OGT Workday

12:15 PM Staff Meeting

Wednesday

9:00 AM Bible Study

10:15 AM Matins Service

10:45 AM Communion Wafer Making

6:00 PM Bible Study

6:00 PM Sr. Handbells

7:00 PM Sr. Choir

7:15 PM Elders Meeting

7:30 PM ECM Board Meeting

Thursday

6:00 PM Tri-W Meeting

Friday

5:00-9:00 PM Church Reserved

Saturday

9:00 AM LWML Annual Meeting

Next Sunday

Baptism of our Lord 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 Divine Service—English and Spanish

Noon Lunch

12:15 PM Spanish Bible Study

12:15 PM Board of Youth Meeting

12:15 PM Youth Confirmation

12:15 PM Choristers Rehearsal

12:45 PM Jr. Handchimes Rehearsal

1:15 PM Jr. Handbells Rehearsal

7:00 PM Lutheran Hour WYGS 91.1 FM

Celebration of Epiphany

Prelude

String Quartet

Welcome and Announcements

Please sign the Record of Fellowship

Ringin' of the Bell

Opening Hymn

395 stanzas 1-4

Confession of Sins

please stand page 151

Kyrie

pages 152-153

Hymn of Praise

Glory to God in the Highest

page 154

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C *(sung)* And also with you.

P Let us pray. O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C *(spoken)* Amen.

please be seated

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

[Isaiah writes:] Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and His glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading

Ephesians 3:1-12

For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of His power. To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose that He has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in Him.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia and Verse

please stand and sing

C Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.

C *(sung)* **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: "'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd My people Israel.'"

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found Him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship Him." After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary His mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C *(sung)* **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Nicene Creed

page 158

Little Sermon

Hymn of the Day

396

Sermon

Heir, Member, Partaker

Ephesians 3:1-12

Installation of Officers

Prayer of the Church

please stand

Offering

String Quartet

Service of the Sacrament

please stand pages 160-163

Distribution

Duet: Mark and Anne Owens

394, 397, 400, 411, 399 *standing for stanza five*

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

Post-Communion Canticle

Thank the Lord

please stand page 164

Closing Liturgy

page 166

Closing Hymn

395 stanzas 5-6

Postlude

Prelude sur l'Introit de l'Epiphanie—M. Duruflé

*Thanks to the String Quartet for enriching our services this morning
Jiangzhongnuo Tao and Vanessa Edwards—violin; Ila Rondeau—viola; His-Yuan Kao—cello
Please take your poinsettia home after either service today if you have not already done so.*

Heir, Member, Partaker—Ephesians 3:1-12

The word “Gentiles” means n_____.

The word “mystery” in our Scripture is a truth that is impossible to know by one’s mind or reason, but must be revealed by G_____.

You are an Heir!

To receive an inheritance there must be a d_____.

What is the inheritance you have received?

You are a Member!

What is meant by the word member? How is this different than being a member of a club or organization?

You are a member of the b_____ of Christ and thus connected to your brothers and sisters in Christ.

You are a Partaker!

You are a partaker of the p_____ given to you through the Word of the G_____.

Next Sunday’s Readings—Baptism of Our Lord Isaiah 42:1–9; Romans 6:1–11; Matthew 3:13–17

LIVING THE SERMON... Consider how you as a member of Christ’s body can serve and care so that together we may faithfully function as members of the living and active body of Christ. Pray that we would remain united so that the body of Christ continues to be strengthened and built up through our prayers and service.

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH... Rejoice that Jesus is the Light of all nations and that He is your Light. Give thanks that through Him and His Word, you are now an heir, member, and partaker of His gifts which continue into eternity. Pray for God’s blessing upon our congregation and our leaders that we may remain faithful to the Gospel Word and faithfully live and serve as Christ’s body in this place.

MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK... *A bruised reed He will not break, and a faintly burning wick He will not quench; He will faithfully bring forth justice.* Isaiah 42:3

Extending Christ’s Love

Thanks for Your Generous Support!

At the conclusion of the first full year of our five-year Extending Christ’s Love Campaign, we are both humbled by and grateful for your generosity. Total gifts and income have exceeded **\$3 million!** Many of you have chosen to increase your pledge or to fulfill your pledge early which means that we can both postpone the time when we will need to begin outside financing of the project and also decrease the amount that we will need to finance, saving us thousands of dollars in interest. Continue to pray for this endeavor and for those who will be served through our Christian Education Center.



Youth Events

KFC (Kids for Christ—fifth graders and younger)

Sunday, January 25—Lutheran Schools Week is a celebration of the sharing God's Word with all of God's children. We are blessed in this community to have several Lutheran schools who have the privilege of teaching the Bible in school. Join us from noon-1:15 PM for lunch and special activities that rejoice in God's richest gifts through His word.



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

Thanks to our youth counselors and parent volunteers who attended the lock-in!

Thursday-Saturday, January 22nd-24th—Y4Life Conference in Washington, DC

Please pray for our youth and adult chaperones who will be attending this for life conference.

Sunday, January 25th—Sign-up Deadline for Higher Things Conference

Join hundreds of youth from across the nation for worship, Bible study, fellowship and fun in St. Louis June 30th-July 3rd. All 8-12 graders are invited to attend. Please sign up on the clipboard in the Sunday School hallways. Questions? Please contact DCE Probst.

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

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 your Indiana tax liability!

Please consult with your tax advisor. Please contact Rachel Fohne for more information at 812-343-3787 or financialsecretary@stpaulcolumbus.org. 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**

IN OUR PRAYERS... *The prayer list was updated on December 22nd. Any additions to the prayer list will be announced.* **Sick and Recovering:** Amy Price (Hospice care), Henry Wischmeier, Marie Tellman, Jim Brock, Gloria Schultz, Joan Wilcox, Beverly Neawedde, Gerald Helt, Jim Probst, Jill Scheidt, Bob and Marilyn Runge, Marilyn Brown, Connie Ball, Pastor Craig Wulf and Jesse Lopez (John and Gail Jones' friends), Lori Lucas (Katrina Smith's friend), 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 Leitsuh (Clearys' friend), Marilyn Gifford and Sherry Hart (Hinds' friends); **Active Military:** Garrett McGaha, Evan Rickus, Shane McGowen (Sally Haak's nephew), Peyton Mullins (Sperry's friend), Ty Chamberlain (Taffy Schroer's relative)

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS... is **this morning**. The following officers will be installed at our services this morning: President—Jason Schroer; Vice President—Phil Burbrink; Secretary—Linda K. Scheidt; Treasurer—Jackie Arnholt; Financial Secretary—Rachel Fohne; Elders—Brian Arnholt, Art Ramsey, Wiley Umphress, and Jeff Schroer; Trustee—Marcus Linke; Evangelism—Kacey Patterson; Education—Sarah Lewis; Youth—April Ann Wofford; Cemetery—Neil Nolting; Stewardship—Hayden Shuffett; Early Childhood Ministry—Andrea Cotton; Council-at-Large—Katie Arnholt, April Hoeltke, and Mark Wint; Trinity Lutheran High School—Henry Wischmeier; White Creek Lutheran School Foundation—Travis Price. Please pray for our officers and leaders.

We thank those who have completed their time of service: Vice President—Zach Mathews; Treasurer—Mary Ann Nunn; Elder—Tim Scheidt; Trustee—Corbin Oliver; Stewardship—Carolyn Wilkerson; Council-at-Large—Lisa Alderson; White Creek Lutheran School Foundation—Phil Burbrink

SUNDAY LUNCHESES... 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—Lasagna and Garlic Bread
January 11th—Chicken Wraps
January 18th—Meatball Subs

January 25th—Walking Tacos—KfC Day

MOMS IN THE WORD... meets **tomorrow** at 10 AM in the fellowship room for devotions and fellowship. All mothers and their children are invited to join us.

ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN WORK DAY... is **this Tuesday, January 6th** from 9 AM-noon at the Jonesville Warehouse. Volunteers are always needed! If you cannot serve during this time, please consider serving any Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday from 10 AM-3 PM.

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDIES RESUME... **this Wednesday, January 7th**, and we would love to have you join us as we study God's Word together! The 9 AM class is studying Romans and the 6 PM class is studying Isaiah.

COMMUNION WAFER MAKING... is **this Wednesday, January 7th** at 10:45 AM in the church kitchen.

LWML ANNUAL MEETING... The 2026 LWML Annual Meeting is **this Saturday, January 10th**, at 9 AM in the fellowship room. All ladies of the church, ages 18 and up, are encouraged to join us for a short devotion, a review of 2025, a preview of 2026, and a pitch-in brunch. We will also be electing a president and secretary for the next two-year term, though as of this writing, no one has stepped up for these positions. Even if you're not interested in a leadership spot at this time, we invite you to join us to prayerfully plan the new year.

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE... is **Monday, January 12th**.

NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK... is **January 25-February 1**. We will join with Lutheran schools throughout the nation around the theme Let's Make a Joyful Noise. Our school students will participate in many special activities and events to celebrate our school. Our Sunday celebration of National Lutheran Schools Week is **Sunday, January 25th**. Our early childhood ministry students will sing at the 10:45 AM service. After the service, our KfC event will include both church and early childhood ministry children and their families. Lunch will be provided for all with activities and events from noon-1:15 PM. Please continue to pray for our school and our teaching staff. Join us as we celebrate the many opportunities that Lord gives us through our early childhood ministry to extend Christ's love!

ECM REGISTRATION... Registration for the 2026-2026 school year for our early childhood ministry is now open! 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. Financial aid is available to all families so that no student is turned away. Please contact Director Jen Probst to schedule a tour or for more information.

INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP... God continues to lead more people to our family of faith. If you would like more information on becoming a member of our congregation, please contact Pastor Bauman.

JANUARY-APRIL FELLOWSHIP HOUR... sign-up sheet is posted in the gathering space.

2026 RADIO MINISTRY AND FLOWER CHART... are posted in the gathering space. Sponsorship for our Sunday morning service and the *Lutheran Hour* at 7 PM on Sundays is \$125 in 2026.

The Response of God's People

The attendance and offerings from our Christmas season services will be included in next Sunday's bulletin.

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 Fickenschier; pastorfickenschier@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)

ECM Assistants: Gayla Alesandro, Sarah Lewis, Laurie Schultz,

Claudia Sims, Caroline Wilcox, Amy Yeley

Reaching out with Christ's Love to Serve and Grow