

# St. Paul Epistle

The Monthly Newsletter of St. Paul Lutheran Church

January, 2024

176

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Columbus, Indiana 47201

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www.stpaulcolumbus.org

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## St. Paul Early Childhood Ministry

Jen Probst, Director and

Preschool Teacher

director@stpaulcolumbus.org

Anne Wiltsey, Kindergarten Teacher

Michelle Schultz, Preschool Teacher

Gayla Alesandro, Amy Yeley, Glory

Wofford, Sarah Lewis, and Jenna Green

Teacher Assistants

## Sunday Schedule

8 AM Divine Service

9:10 AM Fellowship

9:30 AM Sunday School

9:30 AM Radio Worship Service/91.1 FM

10:45 AM Divine Service

English and Spanish

12:15 PM Spanish Bible Study

7 PM Lutheran Hour/91.1 FM

## Prayer Chain

Bonnie England

Phone: 812-392-2732

Dear Friend in Christ,

2023 has been a year full of joy and celebration! It was a milestone year in the life of our congregation and we celebrated in grand style: festive worship services, guest preachers, congregational meals, historical presentations, confirmation recognitions, and fellowship events. We dedicated the bell tower so the Clifty bell could sound forth calling us to worship, and we undertook the project of restoring and repurposing the chapel.

## But now what? What about 2024? What about year 176?

When it comes to the past, there are two temptations to avoid: One temptation is to forget the past. A word often used throughout the Scriptures is **remember**.

- **Remember the days of old...** Deuteronomy 32:7
- **I will remember the deeds of the LORD; yes, I will remember your wonders of old.** Psalm 77:11
- **Remember the Word that I said to you...** John 15:20
- **Do this in remembrance of Me...** Luke 22:19
- **Remember that at one time you were separated from Christ...but you have been brought near by the blood of Christ.** Ephesians 2:12-13

We don't want to forget God's great acts of old: His promises of the Savior, His deliverance of His people from slavery in Egypt, and most especially His great salvation accomplished for us by the birth, perfect life, death, and resurrection of His Son Jesus. Scripture calls us to remember God's great faithfulness to His people, how He sustained them in trial and trouble, confident that God will sustain and strengthen us as He has those who were before us.

The other temptation to avoid when considering the past is just the opposite. Instead of forgetting the past, It is easy to become fixated on the past, to reminisce about the "good ole days", longing for the ways things used to be. The church is not a museum, filled with artifacts of a bygone era. Instead, the church lives and breathes in the present, while always looking ahead to the future. The church lives in the present because Jesus is truly present among us when we gather around His Word and sacraments. Jesus is a historical figure, a real person born in Bethlehem, who died on the cross outside Jerusalem and was raised on the third day. The real Jesus is really present among us! When we gather, we remember God's great acts of old, we walk through the church year recounting our Christ's birth, ministry, death, resurrection, and return on the Last Day. But when we gather, so much more is going on! Jesus comes to us through His means of grace, in the midst of our sin, burdens, sorrows, and struggles, and He gives us His forgiveness, His life, His hope, His strength, His salvation, and His peace. Our Immanuel, our God with us in the present, empowers us for witness and service, to be Christ to our neighbor, to share the Gospel of hope and life, and to invite others to receive the gifts of Christ with us.

We remember the past, God's great deeds of old, but we dare not become fixated on the past, longing for what once was. We receive the Lord's gifts in the here and now, seeking to respond to both the challenges and opportunities that are before us to witness, serve, love, and care. And the church lives always looking ahead to the future. You and I don't know what 2024 will bring, what blessings and burdens there will be. But we know what our ultimate destiny is—an eternity of life and joy in the presence of our Lord. For this story—the story of the Scriptures, the story of our 175-year history as a congregation, the story of your life and mine—is all **HIS** story, **HIS-tory**, as our ever-present Lord continues to serve, save, strengthen and bless us unto life everlasting.

Confident that our Lord's hand is leading us and His love supporting us, we enter the year of our Lord 2024 and year 176 in the life of our congregation. We do so remembering the past while also embracing the future, always desiring to be centered in Jesus Christ who is the same yesterday, today, and forever!

God's Blessings in the New Year!

Pastor Bauman





# Musical Notes

Praise Him, praise Him, all you little children;

God is love, God is love.

Praise Him, praise Him, all you little children;

God is love, God is love.

The text of this well-known children's song was written by Carey Bonner (1859-1938). It contains four stanzas—Praise Him; Love Him; Thank Him; and Serve Him—all both reminding us of what God has done for us and rejoicing that we are His children! We love because God first loved us and give Him thanks and praise for the gifts He has given to us! The tune is easily sung and a great example of music that is simple but not simple-minded. Repetition is the mother of all learning and one of the best ways to commit something to our long-term memory, and this little song succinctly sums up the Christian life.

The children and youth of today are the congregation of St. Paul in the near future. Teaching the value of music that supports God's Word is our responsibility and arguably more important today than ever before. Children singing together to the glory of God alone is counter-cultural yet Scripturally and theologically correct. It's not about us, not about what we want or what the world tells us to pursue. It's about praising God for loving us so much that He sent His Son to die so that we might live eternally! That is why we sing and also what we teach our children in both our church and Early Childhood Ministry.

It is a joy to hear the children singing thanks and praises to our Lord as they walk through the halls of the ECM! Music is a very important part in the daily lives of our ECM students and I would like to give special thanks to Jen, Anne, Michelle, and the entire staff for encouraging, supporting, and leading singing that cradles the Word of God. It is also a joy to sing the church's song with our Sunday School children, and to sing and ring with our Jr. Choirs. I would like to encourage our children and youth to actively participate in the musical opportunities at St. Paul and praise God with the gifts He has given to us!

God's richest blessings to all throughout the New Year!

Dan



**Sr. Handbells** rehearse on Wednesdays from 6:00-7:00 pm.

**Sr. Choir** rehearses on Wednesdays from 7:00-8:15 pm.

**Jr. Choir** rehearses on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am.

**Jr. Handchimes** rehearse on Sundays from 12:30-1:00 pm.

**Jr. Handbells** rehearse on Sundays from 1:15-1:45 pm.

**Choristers** rehearse on Sundays from 1:45-2:15 pm.

**Small Group Handbells** rehearse on Monday mornings from 11:00 am-noon.

If you are interested in more information or have questions, please contact me at (church) 812-603-8960, (mobile) 812-927-9319, or email

[kantor@StPaulColumbus.org](mailto:kantor@StPaulColumbus.org)





# Early Childhood Ministry



Traditions are a way of connecting the past to the present. Traditions have the opportunity to give the current generation a tangible memory from the past with the hope of passing it on to the children of the future. The power of tradition lies in the understanding of why it is celebrated and how the elements point to an ultimate value that is timeless. The joy in my job is teaching our students the why in what we do.

I stumbled across a tradition that focused on the celebration of Epiphany. During the Advent season, we put up a Nativity in our classroom. Instead of placing the wisemen in the manger scene, our wisemen "travel" to different parts of our room until we reach Epiphany. Going back to the Christmas story, we talk about how God placed a special star in the sky on the night Jesus was born. The wisemen noticed the star and recalled the Biblical prophecy of the coming Christ. They began their journey in search of Jesus, with the star to guide them. We celebrate their arrival to worship Jesus on Epiphany (January 6<sup>th</sup>).

I love how this tradition teaches my students patience and timing. They have to wait for the right time to place the wisemen in the Nativity, but they have something to do to keep their attention on the lesson. We learn how God guided the wisemen to find Jesus, even when they were distracted from their course. God continues to guide us today with His word and He brings us back to the right path when we stray. The wisemen gave the first Christmas presents when they came to worship Jesus. Our students learn that Jesus was the greatest gift that God gave to everyone. So many lessons that point us back to Jesus! May the traditions you celebrate be a glorious epiphany to all.

~Blessings,  
Jen Probst

## **Registration Begins for 2024-2025**

With a new year comes a new opportunity. I am excited to announce that registration for our ECM in the middle of January!

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**15<sup>th</sup> – Registration opens for St. Paul Lutheran Church members and current students**  
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**22<sup>nd</sup> – ECM registration opens to the public**

We have an incredible school with a staff that rejoices in their opportunity to teach little ones about God and how they fit in His world. You are our strongest advocate in sharing this wonderful news. If you know of someone who is looking to start their child with a strong foundation of learning, invite them ask questions of the director or schedule a tour ([director@stpaulcolumbus.org](mailto:director@stpaulcolumbus.org)).

A link will be posted on our website ([www.stpaulcolumbus.org](http://www.stpaulcolumbus.org)) to register.

## **Helpers Always Needed**

Our ECM is always looking for individuals who are looking for opportunities to love on little ones as they are taking their first steps in education. We are in need of people to be on our school substitute list for class in the morning or Extended Care in the afternoon. If you would like to discover if this would be a good match for you, please contact Jen Probst for more information.



**8<sup>th</sup> – Classes resume**  
**14<sup>th</sup> – ECM Board Meeting**  
**17<sup>th</sup> – Bookmobile**  
**21 to 28 – National Lutheran Schools Week**  
**24<sup>th</sup> – Kindergarten & Doves Chapel**  
**25<sup>th</sup> – Lambs Chapel**  
**28<sup>th</sup> – ECM Students sing at 10:45 AM service**

~Reaching out with Christ's love to serve and grow through early childhood education. ~

# Education & Youth

Reaching out with Christ's love to serve and grow!

## Youth

### St. Paul Youth

Sr. High Youth 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Dr. Tom Reinsel with Eric and Linda Scheidt

### Christ 4 Life

Jr. High Youth 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade  
Marc and Jennifer Dougherty

#### SPY and C4Life Events

Wednesday, December 27<sup>th</sup>-Thursday, December 28<sup>th</sup>

Circuit Lock-In at St. John's Aurora: Activities include food, fellowship, games, and snow tubing at Perfect North. Depart from St. Paul on Wednesday, December 27<sup>th</sup> at 4:45 PM. All participants (including friends) must sign up by Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>.

Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup> Youth Christmas Party

During the Sunday School hour, grades 7-12 will gather for a Christmas party in the education building. Please meet in the gathering space at 9:30 AM. Our white elephant gift exchange this year is Christmas ornaments. Find the most outrageous Christmas ornament to gift to someone else. There will be plenty of laughter as we see who ends up with what ornament!

Thursday-Saturday, January 18-20 Y4Life Conference

Pray for our youth and chaperones and all who will be attending the Y4Life Conference in Washington, DC.

Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup> Broomball at Hamilton Ice Center

Join us from 2-4 PM for Broomball, hockey played in tennis shoes. Youth and friends can arrive at Hamilton at 2 PM or transportation will be provided for seventh and eighth graders after confirmation class. Friends are welcome. No RSVP needed. Pick-up is from Hamilton at 4 PM.

### Kids for Christ

Elementary Youth led by Chad and Rachel Fohne  
with Matthew and Sarah Lewis

Kids for Christ and their families are invited to join us on Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup> as we connect with our early childhood ministry students and families at the conclusion of National Lutheran Schools Week to celebrate together. After second service, we will enjoy lunch, devotions, and activities, concluding at 1:15 PM. Please RSVP by Wednesday, January 24<sup>th</sup> to Rachel Fohne by email [rnolting@alumni.iu.edu](mailto:rnolting@alumni.iu.edu) or by text or phone at 812-343-3786.

### Youth Choirs

Jr. Choir (grades 3-6) and Children's Choir (preschool-second grade) rehearse during Sunday School.

Jr. Handchimes, Jr. Handbells, and Choristers rehearse on Sundays, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 21<sup>st</sup>. They will ring and sing at both services on Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup>.

Jr. Choir sings at the 6:30 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service and on Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup> at both services.

# Christian Education

## Together as Family Day

Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM

Plan to attend as we gather together on Christmas Eve morning for intergenerational Sunday School. Jan Voelz will give a presentation on German Christmas Traditions and families in attendance will participate in a craft.

## Adult and Youth Classes

Sundays at 9:30 AM

Sr. High Bible Study *God's Plan for Your Life* meets every Sunday in January. Sr. High will participate in Together as Family Day on December 24<sup>th</sup> and the Youth Christmas Party on December 31<sup>st</sup>.

First Steps of Faith (Parents and children two years and younger) meets in the nursery.

Small Group Discussion Class *The Faith in Art* led by Deaconess Fickenscher, meets in the conference room.

Fellowship Room Our current study *Connected to Christ in Worship* continues through January.

Wednesdays

9 AM: Book of Acts (no class on December 27<sup>th</sup>)

6 PM: Second Peter. The class resumes on January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Moms in the Word meets Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM in the nursery for fellowship and a children's devotion.

Women's Bible Study meets on Thursdays, January 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM in the conference room. We will be studying *More Than Anything: Love God Above Everything Else*.

Women of all walks of life are invited to join us as we learn more about idols and how they affect our heart posture.

## Confirmation Instruction

December 24 and 31: Christmas Break: Join us for Together as Family Day on December 24<sup>th</sup> and for the Youth Christmas Party on December 31<sup>st</sup>. A make-up session will be offered after the 10:45 AM service on December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Every Sunday in January: 9:30 AM and 12:15 PM

Confirmation Class; 1:15-2 PM Make-up/Work Ahead

## Sunday Lunches

December 24 and 31: No Lunch Served

January 7: Spaghetti and meatballs

January 14: Grilled cheese and tomato sauce

January 21: Taco bar

January 28: Chicken nuggets—Kids for Christ Event

## Thanks...

The Youth and Education Boards, Youth Counselors, and staff are thanks for your support and encouragement for Christian education and youth ministry in our congregation. A special thanks for those who are serving in December with the Christmas Family Fun Night (including the baking and assembling of gingerbread houses), Children's Christmas Service, Together as Family Day, Youth lock-in, and the youth Christmas party.



# News and Notes

## Christmas and New Year's Schedule

### **Sunday, December 24: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent/Christmas Eve**

8 and 10:45 AM Advent Lessons and Carols with Communion

9:30 AM Together as Family Day

1 PM Spanish Christmas Communion and Candlelight Service

6:30 PM Christmas Lessons and Carols with Candlelight

Christmas carol singing begins at 6:10 PM

11 PM Christmas Eve Communion and Candlelight Service

Christmas carol singing begins at 10:50 PM

### **Monday, December 25: Christmas Day**

10 AM Festival Communion Service

### **Sunday, December 31: Christmas Celebration Sunday/**

#### **New Year's Eve**

8 and 10:45 AM Christmas Celebration Services

9:30 AM Sunday School

Grades 7-12 Christmas party in the education building

1 PM Spanish New Year's Eve Communion Service

6:30 PM New Year's Eve Communion Service

### **Sunday, January 7: Celebration of Epiphany**

8 and 10:45 AM Divine Services with Installation of Officers

9:30 AM Sunday School

10:45 AM Spanish Divine Service

All afternoon activities resume: Youth Confirmation, Spanish

Bible study, and youth choirs

## Christmas Church Office Hours

The church office will be closed from Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> through Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup>. There will be no school from December 20<sup>th</sup> to January 5<sup>th</sup>. If you need pastoral care during this time, please call the church office first. If there is no answer, please call one of the pastors directly.

## New Worship Opportunity

Matins (meaning "of the morning") is a service of word and prayer found on page 219 in the hymnal. Beginning **Wednesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>**, we will offer this prayer service at 10:15 AM every Wednesday. At the conclusion of the service, attendees can remain in the sanctuary for a time of silent prayer if they so desire. Please join us and be blessed through word, prayer, and praise.

## 12<sup>th</sup> Night Young Adults Event

All young adults (post-high school) are invited to the Bauman house (3019 Revere Court) on the 12<sup>th</sup> Day of Christmas, **Friday, January 5<sup>th</sup>** at 6 PM for supper, games, and fellowship. We hope that many college students can attend before heading back for classes. Please RSVP to Pastor Bauman at 812-350-4115 by Thursday, January 4<sup>th</sup> if you plan to attend.

## Orphan Grain Train News

The Jonesville warehouse will close for Christmas at noon on Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup> and reopen on Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>.

Since the warehouse will be closed the first Tuesday in January, our service day will be the **second Tuesday, January**

**9<sup>th</sup>** from 10 AM-noon. If you cannot attend, the need for volunteers is ongoing so volunteer anytime during their regular hours Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10 AM-3 PM.

Donations of gently used clothing and furnishings are always needed and appreciated. Donations can be dropped off at any time at the trailer located on the east side of the warehouse.

## Installation of Officers

The following officers will be installed at either the 8 or 10:45 AM service on **Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>**: President—Jason Schroer; Vice-President—Zach Mathews; Secretary—Linda K. Scheidt; Treasurer—Mary Ann Nunn; Financial Secretary—Melissa Pevlor; Elders—Jim Brock, Adam Hall, and Tim Scheidt; Trustee—Dan Schroer; Evangelism—Colin Scheidt; Education—Crista Burbrink; Youth—Thomas Essex; Cemetery—Daniel Wint; Stewardship—Adam Scheidt; Early Childhood Ministry—Marissa Younger; Trinity Lutheran High School Board—Larry Haak; Council-at-Large—Lisa Alderson, Katie Arnholt, and April Hoeltke. Please pray for our officers and leaders.

We thank those who have completed their time of service: Elder—Jeff Schroer, Youth Board—Kelly Kirkland, and Council-at-large—Mark Wint.

## Communion Wafer Making

We are blessed with faithful volunteers who make Communion wafers. You are invited to join us on **Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>** at 10:45 AM (immediately following Matins) in the church kitchen for our next wafer making day.

## LWML Annual Meeting

The 2024 Annual Meeting of St. Paul's LWML is **Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup>** at 9 AM. All ladies of the church are welcome to come see what the LWML is all about and how we "Serve the Lord with Gladness". Are you interested in serving on the board? If so, there could be a place for you with us. The offices of President and Secretary are elected on even years for a two-year term. If you feel called to serve in this way, please let us know. Do you have a new idea for fellowship events, community outreach, or Bible studies? Come to the meeting and help us plan our 2024 calendar.

## 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration

Our church family is invited to Bonnie England's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday party on **Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup>** at 1 PM at the Holton Town Hall (7044 W Versailles Street, Holton, Indiana). A meal will be served. Please RSVP to Keith England by phone or text at 812-621-7944 by Wednesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## Preschool and Kindergarten Registration

Registration for the 2024-2025 school year begins for church members and current enrolled families on **Monday, January 15<sup>th</sup>**. Open registration begins on **Monday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>**. Registration brochures are available in the Gathering Space and on the church website.

## Please tell others about our preschool and kindergarten!

Here are some facts to share:

- We are accredited through the National Lutheran School Accreditation, making our school one of few early childhood centers that are accredited in Columbus.
- Small class sizes
- Extended Care available for both before and after school
- STEM enrichment available
- MOST importantly, we offer a Christ-centered education! The children learn about Jesus and the Scriptures every day!

## National Lutheran Schools Week

National Lutheran Schools Week is **January 22-28**. We will join with Lutheran schools through the nation around the theme *Connected*. 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 28<sup>th</sup>**. 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, and join us as we celebrate the many opportunities that Lord gives us through our early childhood ministry to eternally connect our students and their families to Jesus Christ!

## Upcoming Concert

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup>** at 4 PM for a Concert featuring the Columbus Brass Quintet and Kantor Dan Mau, organist. The program will include works for brass, organ, brass and organ, and several congregational hymns. Please plan to attend and invite others for an afternoon of Word and song.

## Lenten Services

Lent begins with **Ash Wednesday on February 14<sup>th</sup>**. The services begin at 6:45 PM. On Ash Wednesday, those who desire the Imposition of Ashes can receive them from 6:30-6:45 PM. The Ash Wednesday service will also include Communion. The remaining five midweek services begin at 6:45 PM with a hymn sing beginning at 6:30 PM.

**Lenten Suppers:** Meals will be served before each of the Wednesday services beginning at 5:30 PM. Please sign up on the gathering space if you'd like to host a meal.

## Trinity Lutheran High School Annual Auction Dinner

Preparations for the 21<sup>st</sup> annual Trinity Lutheran High School Dinner Auction are in full swing! This year's event will be held on **Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup>** at TLHS. The auction steering committee is currently seeking donations of items such as desserts, one-of-a-kind items, gift baskets, event tickets, memorabilia, handcrafted items, experiences, gift cards or gift certificates, and more for our live and silent auctions. For more information or to donate items please contact Erin Brooks [ebrooks@trinitycougars.org](mailto:ebrooks@trinitycougars.org) 812-524-8547.

## Mission of the Month

### Concordia Counseling Center

Our first Mission of the Month in 2024 is Concordia Counseling Center. We have chosen Concordia Counseling Center as our first mission so that our \$1,000 gift can be matched by the Indiana District LCMS New Ministry Initiative Grant.

If you have not contributed to this new outreach, we would encourage you to do so before February 1<sup>st</sup> so that your gift can be matched dollar-for-dollar by the Indiana District. Donations should be mailed to Concordia Counseling Center, PO Box 704, Seymour, Indiana 47274. If you have any questions about Concordia Counseling Center, please speak to Pastor Bauman or Executive Director Michelle Downey at [michelledowney@concordiacounseling.org](mailto:michelledowney@concordiacounseling.org)

Please pray for this new outreach and prayerfully consider how you can support this outreach to serve our community with the Gospel of hope and strength through Christ-centered counseling services.

## Official Acts

Jeffery James Tucker, son of Justin and Elizabeth Tucker, was baptized into Christ on November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Natalie Elaine Pollert, daughter of Taylor and Jennifer Pollert, was baptized into Christ on November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Josiah Probst transferred to Trinity Lutheran Church in Elkhart, Indiana

## Our Christian Stewardship

### January-November Financial Report

Offerings Needed:	\$692,448
Offerings Received:	\$673,596
Surplus/(Deficit):	(\$18,852)
Total Income:	\$842,214
Total Expenses:	\$814,270
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ 27,944

We thank you for your faithful stewardship. Although year-to-date offerings are behind, we are entering the final weeks of 2023 in a strong financial position. Much of this can be attributed to increased enrollment in our early childhood ministry for this school year, which has resulted in year-to-date tuition income \$28,822 higher than our budgeted projections.

In the final weeks of 2023, please fulfill your pledge if you haven't already done so or consider giving a special gift, as we together support the mission and ministry our Lord has entrusted to us.

## St. Paul SGO Scholarships

You can support our early childhood ministry and receive a 50% credit on your Indiana state taxes! All contributions to the Lutheran Scholarship Granting Organization benefit the families of students attending our early childhood ministry that meet the family income requirements. The Lutheran SGO helps us achieve our goal of not turning any student away from our school because of finances. SGO donation forms are in the gathering space. For more information, please contact Jen Probst or Melissa Pevlor.

## Our Latino Outreach

I'm thrilled to share some great updates with you all!

On November 26 it was great to have both Anglos and Hispanics together for the entire stained-glass hymn festival as a written translation of Pastor Bauman's homilies was prepared.

On Sunday, December 3, I began a futsal (indoor soccer) outreach at Trinity Indy. During the warmer months I found every Sunday dozens of Guatemalan gentlemen playing on Trinity's soccer field as I was leaving the afternoon church service. Knowing that the temperatures would drop and the days would get shorter, I invited them to bring their play into Trinity's gym every Sunday evening. We're now a couple of weeks in and having a great time. I begin each session with a brief order of service and devotion on one of the day's readings. I'm grateful for this opportunity that the Lord has placed in my lap to serve these gentlemen over an extended period of time with recreation and the Word and form relationships in the process.

And on Tuesday, December 5, we began a five-week Spanish Bible study at Peace Seymour studying and singing the canticles of Luke's nativity account. I had no idea how many non-members/unchurched would attend, but I am grateful to have established a "foothold" at a 30-unit apartment complex of Latinos just half a mile from Peace with a number of its residents expressing interest in the study. I was also pleasantly surprised by a phone call from someone in Seymour that I have yet to meet wondering about our church. Words getting around!

Once again, please do join us for our Las Posadas service and fiesta on Saturday, December 16, at 5 PM. Bring a dish to share and enjoy a little taste of Mexico! You'll have so much fun you'll want to attend the Las Posadas celebration at Trinity Indy the following day.

¡Que la paz de Cristo sea contigo!  
Pastor Fickenscher

## LWML News

The **2024 Annual Meeting of St. Paul's LWML** is Saturday, January 13, at 9 AM. All ladies of the church are welcome to come see what the LWML is all about and how we "Serve the Lord with Gladness". Are you interested in serving on the board? If so, the offices of President and Secretary are elected on even years for a two-year term. If you feel called to serve in this way, please let us know. Do you have a new idea for fellowship events, community outreach, or Bible studies? Come to the meeting and help us plan our 2024 calendar.

### Save the Dates

The **LWML Columbus Zone Spring Rally** is Saturday, April 20, 2024, at Shepherd of the Hills Evangelical Lutheran Church (Bean Blossom), rural Morgantown, Indiana. The theme is "Serving Others is Serving Jesus", and the Bible verse comes from Matthew 25:40. The in-gathering for the rally will be hygiene supplies for Brown County students (Details TBD).

It's never too early to start planning for the **Indiana District LWML Convention** to be held June 21-23 at the Hendricks County 4-H Conference Center in Danville, Indiana. Our own Pastor Fickenscher has been invited to be one of the mission speakers at convention this year. All women are encouraged to attend the "Rooted in Christ" convention based on Ephesians 3:17. Convention registration and housing information will go out in February, but start making plans to attend now.



### LWML Mission Grant Highlights 2023-2025

Each month the LWML organization highlights one of the 31 adopted 2023-2025 Mission Grants. December focused on Journeys Lutheran School in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. To learn more about these, or any of the 31 mission grants, visit [lwml.org/mission-grants](http://lwml.org/mission-grants) or ask a LWML board member. Read more about our mission grants on the LWML bulletin board too.

#### *Journeys Lutheran School | \$100,000*

Journeys Lutheran School in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, is *Serving God's Children with Special Needs* by providing educational opportunities in a specialized setting to meet the children's needs. The vans purchased with grant funds will be used to transport the children to and from events, internships, and other activities. To learn more, visit [lwml.org/2023-2025-mission-grant-3](http://lwml.org/2023-2025-mission-grant-3).

Connected to Christ ✝ Connected to One Another ✝ Connecting Others to Christ

# Serving at St. Paul

Month	Usher Team	Elders	Greeters
8 AM	Team A	Jim Brock & Brian Arnholt	Brian & Chelsea Warren
10:45 AM	Team E	Eric Scheidt & Tim Scheidt	Luke & Tatum Potter

Month	Acolytes	Flowers	Radio	Fellowship Hour	Lunch
7	8 AM Luke Warren			Marybeth Glick	
	10:45 AM Lane Gilmore				
14	8 AM Adam Arnholt		Wilbur & Bonnie England		
	10:45 AM Ellie Glick				
21	8 AM Sarah Arnholt		Jim & Nora Cleary	Philip & Crista Burbrink And Bob and Karen Burbrink	
	10:45 AM Zaylie Gonsior				
28	8 AM Addy Arnholt			Glenn & Barbara Hughes And Holly Branaman	
	10:45 AM Hayley Hauersperger				