

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

And He Called His Name Jesus

Fourth Sunday in Advent—8 AM Service
December 21, 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
Acolyte: 8 AM Service Kinze Fischer

Church Calendar

Church Office Closed December 23rd-January 2nd

No School through January 2nd

Pastor Patterson on Vacation through December 23rd

Rachel Fohne on Vacation December 26th-January 2nd

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 Children's Christmas Service Noon Lunch 12:15 PM Youth Confirmation 2:00 PM Christmas Caroling 6:40 PM Pre-Concert Harp Recital 7:00 PM Christmas Concert 7:00 PM Lutheran Hour WYGS 91.1 FM
Monday	8:00 AM Deadline for December 28 th and January 4 th Bulletins 10:00 AM Small Group Handbells
Wednesday	Christmas Eve 5:10 PM Carol Singing 5:30 PM Candlelight Service 5:30 PM Spanish Christmas Service Fellowship Room 9:40 PM Carol Singing 10:00 PM Communion and Candlelight Service
Thursday	Christmas Day 10:00 AM Festival Communion Service
Saturday	11 AM-2 PM Otte Anniversary Open House
Next Sunday	Christmas Celebration Sunday 8:00 AM Divine Service 9:00 AM Radio Service WYGS 91.1 FM 9:10 AM Fellowship 9:30 AM Sunday School 9:30 AM Youth Christmas Party 10:45 AM Divine Service—English and Spanish Noon Confirmation Make-up Session 12:15 PM Spanish Bible Study 7:00 PM Lutheran Hour WYGS 91.1 FM

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*

Fourth Sunday in Advent—8 AM Service

Prelude

Sr. Handbells: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*—J. Behnke
Lift Up Your Heads, You Everlasting Doors—L. Delancy

Welcome and Announcements

Please sign the Record of Fellowship

Ringling of the Bell

Baptism Hymn

590

Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Taylor Jane Mau

page 268

Hymn

please remain standing **357 stanzas 1-2**

Salutation and Collect for the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

please be seated

Hymn

357 stanzas 3-4

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 7:10-17

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz: "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey when He knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father's house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria!"

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Hymn Response

357 stanzas 5-6

Epistle Reading

Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning His Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by His resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of His name among all the nations, including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

P This is the Word of the Lord.


C Thanks be to God.

Hymn Response

please stand **357 stanza 7**

Gospel Reading

Matthew 1:18-25

 The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the first chapter.

 **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called His name Jesus.

 This is the Gospel of the Lord.

 **Praise to You, O Christ.**

please be seated

Little Sermon

Hymn of the Day

356

Sermon

And He Called His Name Jesus

Matthew 1:18-25

Offering

900

Prayer of the Church

please stand

Service of the Sacrament

pages 194-198

Distribution

340, 339 stanzas 1-3, 352, 622

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

Closing Liturgy

please stand pages 199-202

Closing Hymn

339 stanza 4

Postlude

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel—R. Powell

Advent and Christmas Services and Events

Today—10:45 AM Children’s Christmas Service

2 PM Christmas Caroling

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;

Communion will be offered in the fellowship room following the service

10 PM Communion and Candlelight Service—Carol singing begins at 9:40 PM

Christmas Day, Thursday, December 25th—10 AM Festival Communion Service

Next Sunday, December 28th—Christmas Celebration Sunday

9:30 AM Youth Christmas Party (grades 7-12)

New Year’s Eve, Wednesday, December 31st—5:30 PM Divine Service

Friday-Saturday, January 2nd-3rd—Aurora Circuit Youth Lock-in at St. John’s, Aurora (grades 6-12); *Sign-up Today!*

Sunday, January 4th—Celebration of Epiphany with Installation of Officers

And He Called His Name Jesus

Matthew 1:18-25

Joseph doesn't faithfully c_____ who this child is.

It's by G_____ that Joseph is awoken from his stupor of unbelief.

In naming him Jesus, Joseph isn't just giving the child a name; he's faithfully c_____ who the child is.

Jesus isn't the fruit of a sinful relationship, but rather He is your Savior from your s_____.

To be associated with Jesus is to be m_____ and scorned by the world.

We are s_____ when we humble ourselves before God's mighty plan of salvation revealed in His Word.

Joseph doesn't b_____ it because the Lord worked on him through His W_____.

The Lord also works on you through His Word, so that you faithfully c_____ who Jesus is.

Christmas Eve at 5:30 PM Readings Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 2:1-20

Christmas Eve at 10 PM Readings Isaiah 9:2-7; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:1-20

Christmas Day Readings Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-14

Next Sunday's Readings Isaiah 63:7-14; Galatians 4:4-7; Matthew 2:13-23

LIVING THE SERMON... Joseph didn't at first believe God's Word spoken to him by Mary that the child in her womb was not from a sinful relationship but rather was his and our Savior from our sins. But it was through that same Word spoken by an angel that Joseph was eventually brought to faith and correctly confessed who Jesus is. Let us continually abide and rest in God's Word, even when we are skeptical, in order that we would boldly and faithfully confess with Joseph that Jesus is our Savior!

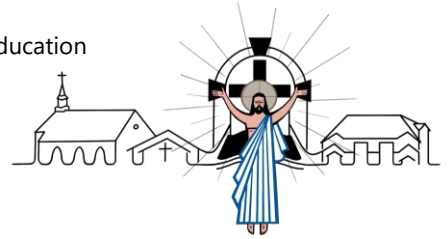
PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH... Jesus, I believe; help my unbelief! Give me and my neighbors ears to hear joyfully Your Word in order that together we would faithfully confess you as our Savior from our sins.

MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK... *But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.* Galatians 4:4-5

Extending Christ's Love

Construction Has Begun!

It is exciting to witness the beginning of construction of our Christian Education Center. Despite the cold weather, work on the drilled piers has continued so that the Christian Education Center literally has a firm foundation on solid rock. The steel has been ordered and will be delivered in the coming weeks.



Thanks for Your Generous Support!

As we near the end 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.

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.

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)

Next Sunday, December 28th—Youth Christmas Party

During the Sunday School hour, youth in grades 7-12 will gather in the confirmation room for their annual Christmas party. We will be decorating gingerbread houses. Bring some candy to share for decorating houses.

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 **today**.

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

2026-2027 ECM Registration 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. 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).

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!

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 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**

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>

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... **Baptism:** Taylor Jane Mau; **Sick and Recovering:** Henry Wischmeier (heart catheterization on Tuesday) Marie Tellman, Jim Brock, Gloria Schultz, Joan Wilcox, Beverly Neawedde, Gerald Helt, Jim Probst, Jill Scheidt, Bob and Marilyn Runge, Marilyn Brown, Connie Ball, 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 (Sperry's friend), Ty Chamberlain (Taffy Schroer's relative)

BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST... We rejoice as Taylor Jane Mau, daughter of Christopher Mau and Emma Dawson, is baptized at the 8 AM service. Godparents are Brayden Murphy and Elizabeth Hughett. May Christ keep Taylor in the one true faith all her days.

TODAY'S RADIO MINISTRY... is sponsored by Larry and Sally Haak in honor of Nikolai and Lydia Haak's baptismal birthdays and Mason Haak's birthday.

PASTOR PATTERSON ON VACATION... Pastor and Tammy are visiting family and celebrating his father's birthday, until this Tuesday, December 23rd. If you need pastoral care, please contact Pastor Fickenscher or Pastor Bauman.

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: Hotdogs and chips
Next Sunday, December 28th—No lunch served
January 4th—Lasagna and Garlic Bread
January 11th—Chicken Wraps
January 18th—Meatball Subs

CHRISTMAS CAROLING... You are invited to join us as we go Christmas caroling to our shut-in and homebound members **this afternoon**. Please meet at the church at 2 PM.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT TONIGHT... The Beecher Singers and Orchestra will return **this evening** 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 DEADLINE AND OFFICE HOURS... The deadline for both the December 28th and January 4th bulletins is **tomorrow** at 8 AM.

The church office will be closed for the Christmas season **this 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 **this Saturday, December 27th** from 11 AM-2 PM at the fellowship room. Please RSVP to Joe Otte at 812-603-8371 **today** if you plan to celebrate with them.

NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE... Please join us on New Year's Eve at 5:30 PM for a Communion service as we give thanks to God for His countless gifts in 2025 and pray for His blessing upon the coming year. The theme of the service is *You Also Must Be Ready*.

CELEBRATION OF EPIPHANY... On **Sunday, January 4th**, we will celebrate the Epiphany, the visit of the wisemen to Bethlehem to worship Jesus and to offer their gifts. The String Quartet will enrich our services that day. New officers and board members will also be installed at both services.

MOMS IN THE WORD... meets on **Monday, January 5th** 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 **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... on **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 **Wednesday, January 7th** at 10:45 AM in the church kitchen.

LWML ANNUAL MEETING... The 2026 LWML Annual Meeting is **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.

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.

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.

THANKS TO... DCE Jen Probst, Sunday School Superintendent Katie Arnholt, Kantor Mau, and Sunday School teachers and early childhood ministry staff for your leadership and support in the Children's Christmas Service.

The Response of God's People

Wednesday, December 10th

Midweek Advent Service: **95**

Sunday, December 14th

Divine Service: **139**

Communion: **99**

Offering

General Fund: **\$26,232.77**

Weekly Need: \$15,933

Extending Christ's Love: **\$4,025** includes \$1,730 Silent

Auction; \$500 in honor of Dan Mau from the Sr. Choir;

Dennis Peters Memorials: \$100

SGO Donations: \$6,000



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)

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

Claudia Sims, Caroline Wilcox, Amy Yeley

Reaching out with Christ's Love to Serve and Grow