St. Paul Epistle

The Monthly Newsletter of St. Paul Lutheran Church

December 2026

6045 East State Street
Columbus, Indiana 47201
Phone: 812-376-6504
www.stpaulcolumbus.org

Pastor Douglas Bauman
pastorbauman@stpaulcolumbus.org

Pastor Jeff Patterson
pastorpatterson@stpaulcolumbus.org

Pastor Daniel Fickenscher
pastorfickenscher@stpaulcolumbus.org

Kantor Daniel Mau
daniel.mau@stpaulcolumbus.org

DCE Jen Probst
jennifer.probst@stpaulcolumbus.org

Administrative Specialist Mackenzie Wint
mackenzie.wint@stpaulcolumbus.org

Financial Specialist Rachel Fohne
rachel.fohne@stpaulcolumbus.org

Social Media Coordinator Andrea Cotton
andrea.cotton@stpaulcolumbus.org

Renee Strietelmeier
Latino Outreach Coordinator
riskplants@yahoo.com

St. Paul Early Childhood Ministry
Jen Probst, Director
Anne Wiltsey, Kindergarten Teacher
Michelle Schultz and Brooke Hughes, Preschool Teachers
Gayla Alesandro, Andrea Cotton, Tara Draeger, Sarah Lewis, Lisa Seckman, Laurie Schultz, Claudia Sims, Amy Yeley
Teacher Assistants

Sunday Schedule
8 AM Divine Service
9 AM Radio Worship Service/91.1 FM
9:10 AM Fellowship
9:30 AM Sunday School
10:45 AM Divine Service
English and Spanish
12:15 PM Spanish Sunday School
7 PM Lutheran Hour/91.1 FM

Prayer Chain
Bonnie England
Phone: 812-447-7895

Crispy Leaves and Mighty Trees

Dear Friends in Christ,

As I write this, the trees are full of color and crispy leaves cover the ground. Most fields have been harvested as the days become shorter and cooler. Soon we will gather with our church family and our families to celebrate Thanksgiving, giving thanks to God for the harvest and for His countless blessings.

The Scriptures often use agricultural images and metaphors to describe our God and His grace, and to also describe the human condition, that we are sinners in need of the Savior. Many of Jesus' parables employ earthy metaphors like the parables of the sower, the wheat and the weeds, the seed growing silently, the mustard seed, and the fig tree. Through what we see in God's creation, we can learn about our Creator, His grace and mercy. When we observe God's creation, which is also broken by sin, we better understand our own brokenness.

Advent begins on November 29th. Our theme for both our Sunday and Wednesday Advent services is *Crispy Leaves and Mighty Trees*. As we look at leaves and trees in the Scriptures, we will prepare our hearts to celebrate the coming of our Savior—His first coming at Christmas and His final coming on the Last Day.

It should come as no surprise that when God speaks through His prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah to foretell of the coming Savior, He uses the imagery of trees and branches:

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from His roots shall bear fruit…
In that day the root of Jesse, shall stand as a signal for the peoples—
of Him shall the nations inquire, and His resting place will be victorious. Isaiah 11:1, 10

Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD,
when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and He shall reign as king and deal wisely,
and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. Jeremiah 23:5

In these prophecies, Jesus is described as a shoot, a branch, and the root. On the night before His death, our Lord declares, "I am the vine; you are the branches" (John 15:5). Since we are like "faded leaves" and "withered grass", we look to Him who is both the shoot and the root of Jesse and the righteous Branch, the eternal King descended from King David. He was born to die on that cursed tree for us, so that the cross has now become for us the Tree of Life. Risen from the dead, He is living vine who has joined us to Himself so that we are now living branches, nourished by Him, growing and producing good fruit.

I hope you will take advantage of the opportunities to worship on both Sundays and Wednesdays during Advent as we unpack the Biblical theme of Crispy Leaves and Mighty Trees. As we move into this sacred season, please consider those you can invite to our Advent and Christmas services as well as special events like our Christmas Family Fun Night, the Christmas Concert, and our Children's Christmas Service. God's richest blessings to you as we prepare for our Savior's coming this Advent season!

In Christ's Love to Extend Christ's Love,

Pastor Bauman

Advent Sermon Series—Crispy Leaves and Mighty Trees

Wednesday Advent Services are at 6:45 PM

Sunday, November 29th: Faded Leaves; Isaiah 64:1-9
Wednesday, December 2nd: Palm Branches; Psalm 1; Leviticus 23:33-43; Revelation 7:9-17
Sunday, December 6th: Withered Grass; Isaiah 40:1-11 and 2 Peter 3:8-14
Wednesday, December 9th: Watered Willows; Psalm 85; Isaiah 44:1-5; John 16:4b-15
Sunday, December 13th: Oaks of Righteousness; Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Wednesday, December 16th: Felled Cedars; Psalm 126; Ezekiel 31; Matthew 15:10-20
Sunday, December 20th (8 AM Service): Peacefully Planted; 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
Wednesday, December 23rd: Rooted in Christ; Psalm 92; Hosea 14; Colossians 2

Musical Notes

The advent of our King
Our prayers must now employ,
And we must hymns of welcome sing
In strains of holy joy.

The opening stanza of LSB 331, The Advent of Our King, ushers in the new church year with both prayer and praise as we sing in anticipation of our Saviors' birth at Christmas. Advent is a time of both preparing for Jesus' birth and His second coming, as stated in stanza 4:

As judge, on clouds of light,
He soon will come again
And His true members all unite
With Him in heaven to reign.

Advent is also a time to reflect on our sinful condition and ask for forgiveness—and walk in the newness of life as redeemed children of our Savior, as we sing in stanza 5:

Before the dawning day
Let sin's dark deeds be gone,
The sinful self be put away,
The new self now put on.

The Savior of the world is born on Christmas, not as a member of royalty or to earthly fame and proclamation, but in the most humble manner possible, as we sing in the first stanza of LSB 393, Infant Holy, Infant Lowly:

Infant holy,
Infant lowly,
For His bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing,
Little knowing
Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging,
Angels singing,
Bells are ringing,
Tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child is Lord of all!

It is both an honor and privilege to serve as your kantor! Thank you for the opportunity to help proclaim the church's song throughout the year and into the future—let us sing to the glory and praise of our newborn Savior, Jesus Christ! God's richest blessings to all for a Christ-filled Christmas and New Year!

In Christ's eternal love,
Dan



Sr. Handbells rehearse on Wednesday, December 2, 9, 16, and 23 from 5:45-6:30 pm.
Sr. Choir rehearsals are on Wednesday, December 2, 9, 16, and 23 from 7:45-8:45 pm.
Jr. Choir rehearses on Sunday mornings during the Sunday School hour.
Jr. Handchimes rehearse on Sundays from 12:45-1:15 pm.
Jr. Handbells rehearse on Sundays from 1:15-1:45 pm.
Small Group Handbells rehearse on Mondays at 10:00 am.

If you are interested in more information or have questions, please contact me at, (mobile) 812-927-9319, or email daniel.mau@StPaulColumbus.org

Thank you!

Early Childhood Ministry

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

Registration

Open registration begins on Monday, November 16th for the 2027-2028 school year. Please go to the website (www.stpaulcolumbus.org) or click on the link if your child is:

~ Currently enrolled and is planning on **returning** to St. Paul for the 2027-2028 school year.

~3 year old **Lambs classes** on Tuesday and Thursday from 8:15 to 11:15 AM.

~4 year old **Doves classes** on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:15 to 11:15 AM.

~Fully comprehensive half-day **Kindergarten** program, Monday to Friday from 8:15 AM to 12:15 PM with complementary, flexible extended care till 2:30 PM.

St. Paul Lutheran ECM also offers:

~**Doves STREAM** class on Wednesdays from 12:15 to 3:15 PM (class limit of 20).

~**Kindergarten STREAM** class on Wednesdays from 12:15 to 3:15 PM (available for all Kindergarten students enrolled at St. Paul Lutheran ECM).

~**Before school care**, starting at 7:00 AM.

~**After school care**, ending at 4:30 PM.

Please visit the website to see architectural renderings of what our future classrooms could look like.



7 – Moms in the Word beginning at 10:00 AM
13 – Family Fun Night beginning at 5:00 PM
16 – Bookmobile
17 – Parent's Day (All school event) – Chapel begins at 8:20 AM
19 – Children's Christmas Service practice beginning at 9:00 AM
20 – Children's Christmas Service beginning at 10:45 AM
21 to January 1 – Christmas Break
January 4 – Classes resume for Kindergarten and Doves students
January 5 – Classes resume for Lambs

Christian Education

Family Devotions

Attached to the end of this newsletter you will find a calendar for family devotions for the month.

Sunday School

Dec	First Steps of Faith *Infant to 2-year-olds*	Elementary *Preschool to 4th Grade*	5th and 6th Grade
6	Advent-Mary	Ruth's Faith	Departure from Egypt
13	Advent-Shepherds	Birth of Jesus	The Giving of the Law
20	Christmas	Christmas Service Practice	Christmas Service Practice
27	Wise men	Special Lesson	Special Lesson

Dec	**Confirmation Instruction** *7th and 8th Grade*	**Senior High** *9th to 12th Grade*
6	Creed Introduction and 3 Creeds	Seasonal Lessons
13	Article 1:1	
20	Creation and Evolution	
27	Special Lesson	

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study: Lord, Teach Us to Pray (Pastor Bauman)

Midweek Adult Bible Studies:

Monday, December 7	10:00 AM – Moms in the Word
Wednesdays	9:00 AM – Romans (no class on December 30th)

Youth Ministry

1. Warmth, Challenge, Grace
2. Supportive Adults
3. Engaged Parents
4. Opportunities to Serve and Lead

Seven Practices of Healthy Youth Ministry: ***5. Help Youth Deeply Understand Their Baptismal Faith***

Through the Great Commission, God invites His people to join Him in the work of making disciples of all nations through teaching and baptism. The church has the opportunity to partner with parents as they teach their children to understand how to live and lean into the gifts God gives them through baptism. Active encouragement of youth attending Sunday School and Confirmation class are recognized programs that support a child's understanding of their Baptismal faith. It is important to note that as youth reaffirm their baptism through the Rite of Confirmation, their learning and application of God's Word in their lives does not stop. "God did not just act once and never again. Instead, our Baptism is continuous, and we carry it every day...Christian education at every age repeats God's timeless truth over and over in new ways as we learn and grow throughout our lives...The Gospel provides motivation for forgiven saints to live their lives according to our heavenly Father's will. The Spirit fuels youth to put their faith into action."

To help our youth grow into adults who understand their baptismal faith, we need to walk alongside them as we discover more about our own. We can dive into God's Word and gain personal understanding as we prepare to teach these lessons to children. And through our actions and invitation, we can model for our youth the desire to be where God promises to be – in His Word and Sacraments.

Gifts of Time and Talent:

December Acolytes			**Music**	
8:00 AM	***10:45 AM***		***8:00 AM***	***10:45 AM***
Andrew Johnson	Kaylin Umphress	**6**	Jr. Choir	
Naomi Lewis	Jewel Wofford	**13**	Sr. Handbells	
Kinze Fischer	Faith Wofford	**20**		Jr. Choir, Jr. Handchimes/Jr. Handbells
5:30 PM: Alex Essex	**10:00 PM:** None	**24**	**5:30 PM** Jr. Choir	**10:00 PM** Sr. Choir
10:00 AM: Trey Price		**25**	**10:00 AM**: Sr. Handbells	
Henry Seifer	Emma Gibson	**27**	Small Group Handbells	
5:30 PM: Lily Gibson		**31**		

Connecting to Others:

KfC	**Sunday, December 13** beginning at 5:00 PM
Kids for Christ youth group for preschool to 5th Grade	We will start off our Family Fun Night with a supper hosted by the Tri-W ladies of the congregation. The meal will be followed by a devotion and gingerbread house decorating. Families can take their gingerbreads home.

C4Life	SPY
Christ for Life youth group for 6th to 8th Grade	*St. Paul Youth group for High School students*
Remind App Code: @4aef23g	***Remind App Code: @ge9993***

Icing Making – Sunday, December 6th from Noon to 1:30 PM

Royal icing is the delicious glue that holds our gingerbread houses together. We need your help making the icing and placing it in piping bags for gingerbread house assembly and decorating. After lunch, we will spend time in the kitchen working on this project and other service projects around the church.

Youth Christmas Party – Sunday, December 6th from 1:45 to 4:00 PM

After we have made the icing, it will be time to celebrate. We will spend our time with snacks, fellowship, and games in the Education building (up the hill). We will also have a Christmas gift exchange. Participants are encouraged to bring Christmas accessories like necklaces, hats, slippers, etc. that has a total value of $10.

Shut In Christmas Caroling – Sunday, December 13th from 3:00 to 5:00 PM

Come lend your voice to spread Christmas cheer to those who can no longer leave their home. We will meet at church and divide out into groups to carpool to area nursing homes.

Gingerbread House Decorating Contest – Sunday, December 13th from 5:00 to 7:00 PM

After making the dough and the icing, it is time to have a little fun! Youth are invited to come to Family Fun Night and decorate their own or a team gingerbread house. Prizes will be awarded.

Trivia Night Help and Donations – by Sunday, December 20th

Our youth are donating their time and finding treasures to help with the Extending Christ's Love Campaign. I need all youth to donate 5-7 prize items, valuing $5 each, for giveaways at Trivia Night (January 9). On the night of the event, I will also need youth to help to be table runners and childcare providers. You can sign up and give prizes to DCE Jen Probst.

Creation Museum – Saturday, January 2nd from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM

Our confirmand students will be going on a field trip to the Creation Museum for some interactive learning. Senior High youth who did not have the opportunity to attend when they were confirmation age are also welcome to attend. Those who would like to attend need to fill out the form. Please contact Pastor Bauman or DCE Jen Probst for the form or more details.

Please see DCE Jen Probst for additional details or registration information.

~Friends are always welcome. Parents are invited to help out.~

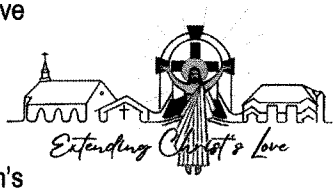
Upcoming Services and Special Events

Please join us for the special services and events and invite others!

Wednesday, November 25 7 PM Thanksgiving Eve Communion Service
Wednesdays, December 2. 9, 16, and 23 6:45 PM Midweek Advent Services
Sunday, December 6 SPY and C4Life Christmas Party
Sunday, December 13 3 PM Christmas Caroling; 5 PM Christmas Family Fun Night
Thursday, December 17 Early Childhood Ministry Parents Day
Saturday, December 19 5 PM Las Posadas Service and Fiesta
Sunday, December 20 10:45 AM Children's Service; Rehearsal is Saturday, December 19th from 9-10:30 AM
7 PM Christmas Concert; 6:40 PM Pre-concert Harp Recital
Thursday, December 24—Christmas Eve 5:30 PM Candlelight Service; 5:10 PM Pre-service Carol Singing
10 PM Candlelight and Communion Service; 9:40 PM Pre-service Carol Singing
Friday, December 25—Christmas Day 10 AM Festival Communion Service
Sunday, December 27—Christmas Celebration Sunday
Thursday, December 31—New Year's Eve 5:30 PM Communion Service
Sunday, January 3—Celebration of Epiphany Installation of Officers

Extending Christ's Love Update

Over 4 million dollars in 27 months! That's how much you and your brothers and sisters in Christ have contributed to Extending Christ's Love. Your remarkable generosity means that we have not needed to begin borrowing through Lutheran Church Extension Fund. The result is that every gift given to this point has been applied to the project and not to interest payments.



These past weeks we have been blessed with significant gifts to Extending Christ's Love. On November 1st, we were blessed to receive the $12,000 grant for the Indiana District of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League for classroom furnishings. In early November, we received the second $250,000 installment of the $1 million estate pledge. Also, we received $100,000 in income from the Schuette fund.

In addition to more than $1.4 million of the Christian Education Center funded through Endowment income, an additional $150,000 in endowment income was set aside to pay for the roofing of the existing church, which was completed this past month. Work continues at a steady pace on the Christian Education Center with the goal to have the building entirely enclosed in the coming weeks.

There are many ways to support Extending Christ's Love in the coming weeks:

- **Baking for the Building—Sunday, November 15th:** Please consider donating dessert(s) and taking desserts home for a freewill donation. Dessert dropoff is Saturday, November 14th from 2-4 PM or Sunday, November 15th before first service.
- **Silent Auction—Sundays, November 22nd-29th:** If you are interested in donating items, please contact Phil Burbrink (812-216-1982) or Wendy Wiederhoeft (812-371-4271); *Donations can be placed in the library.* The auction ends at the beginning of the Annual Meeting on November 29th.
- **Gayla Alesandro's Retirement Recognition:** After 31 years of service in our early childhood ministry, Mrs. Al will be retiring at the end of the school year. She has requested that in honor of her upcoming retirement, gifts be given for classroom furnishings in the early childhood center. If you would like to honor Gayla in this way, please make your gift before January 24, 2027.
- **Catalog of Needed Items:** If you have been considering sponsoring needed items in the Christian Education Center or the office area in the existing church, now is the time to reserve your items. These gifts, over and above your pledge, can be given in honor of, memory of, or thanksgiving for a loved one or special event. Over $260,000 has been given or pledged for these items to this point. Thanks be to God! The deadline to reserve furnishings and other items in the Christian Education Center is February 1, 2027. The deadline to reserve furnishings and other items in the office area is May 1, 2027.
- **Trivia Night—Saturday, January 9th at 6 PM:** Gather together a group of six people for a night of fun and fellowship. Cost per table is $250 which will literally purchase a new table for use in our church. To sponsor a table, please contact DCE Jen Probst.
- **Thrivent Choice Dollars:** Thrivent members—the deadline to designate your Choice Dollars has been moved up to December 31, 2026. All Thrivent members now have Choice Dollars to designate, and the amount of Choice Dollars available to each member has increased. Don't miss out on this opportunity! If you are a Thrivent member, please login to your Thrivent account and designate your Choice Dollars before the end of the year. You can also designate your Choice Dollars by phone by calling 800-847-4836. When prompted say, "Thrivent Choice" and then press 1 to direct your choice dollars.
- **Pledges:** If you are able, consider accelerating the fulfillment of your pledge or increasing your pledge. If you haven't made a pledge, consider doing so. The more that is donated now will save us on financing charges in the future.
- **St. Paul Lutheran SGO:** We continue to receive donations for the Indiana State SGO program. On January 1, 2027, the federal SGO program will begin. Rachel Fohne will give a presentation at the annual meeting about these two programs and how your contributions support our school ministry and provide tax credits on your federal and state taxes. Participation in the St. Paul Lutheran SGO increases our yearly general fund net income which is moved to Extending Christ's Love. In 2025, $120,000 was transferred to Extending Christ's Love.

St. Paul Lutheran Church & Early Childhood Ministry

News and Notes

ECM Registration

Registration for the 2027-2028 school year has begun! Registration for church members and families with children currently enrolled is ongoing. Open registration begins **Monday, November 16th.**

We need your help in promoting our Christ-centered, fully accredited early childhood ministry. When registration begins, please share the informational flyers with family, friends, and neighbors who have preschool and kindergarten-aged children. Director Jen Probst is always willing to provide tours of our school to interested families. Here are some highlights to share about our school to share with others.

- We are one of the few fully accredited early learning centers in the area.
- We have low teacher-to-student ratios in our classrooms.
- We offer financial aid, so finances are not an obstacle for any family to attend.
- And most importantly, we teach the Word of God to every student every day so that their faith may be firmly founded on Christ, the solid rock!
- Kindergarten and STREAM are available at no cost to enrolled families.
- Also, the upcoming school year will be ***our first year in the Christian Education Center***, enabling us to serve more students! Children will learn in an age-appropriate space designed for early learners, with a chapel area for Jesus Time and music class, a new playground, and the Great Hall for Minds in Motion, large group activities, and indoor play when the weather is inclement.

For more information, please contact Director Jen Probst.

Concordia Counseling Presentation

On **Sunday, November 22nd** during the Sunday School hour, Deaconess Michelle Downey of Concordia Counseling will give a presentation of the ongoing work and ministry expansion of this important outreach. Please plan to attend.

Thanksgiving Eve Service

On **Wednesday, November 25th** at 7 PM we will gather to give thanks to the Lord for all His blessings. Before you gather with your family on Thanksgiving Day, please take time to gather with your eternal family of faith to give thanks. Holy Communion will be celebrated. The theme is *Bigger Barns or Greater Gratitude?* based on the Parable of the Rich Fool from Luke 12:13-21.

Annual Meeting

We want you at this year's annual meeting on **Sunday, November 29th!** We will review reports from our boards and staff for the past year and approve the mission and ministry budget for 2027 as well as ratify officers. The meeting will also include a presentation regarding the new federal SGO program that begins in 2027 and how this program will be a tremendous blessing to our school. The Voters Assembly will also consider a motion from the Board of Elders to call Rachel Fohne as our Director of Church Ministries upon completion of her studies and certification.

A pitch-in will be held at 5 PM with meat and drinks provided. The meeting begins at 6 PM. The Annual Report will be distributed beginning November 22nd. You are encouraged to review the materials before the meeting. Children are welcome to attend. They can eat with their parents and then childcare will be provided during the meeting. Reports for the Annual Meeting need to be submitted no later than **Monday, November 16th.**

Gingerbread House Donations and Volunteers Needed

Every year we are blessed to have a great turnout for our Christmas Family Fun Night. If you would like to donate items, please sign up on the sheet posted in the gathering space. All items should be brought to church by Sunday, November 29th.

Volunteers Needed to help bake and construct gingerbread houses beginning on **Monday, November 30th.** The gingerbread houses will be assembled on **Wednesday, December 9th.**

Orphan Grain Train Workday

Our OGT Workday is **Tuesday, December 1st** from 9 AM-noon. If you cannot attend, volunteer anytime during their regular hours Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10 AM-3 PM. Donations can be dropped off at any time at the trailer located on the east side of the warehouse.

Midweek Advent Services

Crispy Leaves and Mighty Trees is the theme of all our Advent services (Sundays and Wednesdays). Our midweek Advent services are **Wednesdays, December 2nd, 9th, 16th, and 23rd** beginning at 6:45 PM. Please plan to attend and invite others as we prepare and rejoice in Christ's coming to us.

Moms in the Word

All mothers and their children are invited to attend our monthly Moms in the Word gathering on **Monday, December 7th** at 10 AM in the fellowship room. Join us for a devotion and fellowship!

Christmas Family Fun Night

Please join us as we go Christmas Caroling to our shut-ins on **Sunday, December 13th.** Meet at the church at 3 PM. At 5 PM, 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.



Las Posada Service and Fiesta

On **Saturday, December 19th** 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

The Children's Christmas Service is **Sunday, December 20th** at the 10:45 AM service. The theme is *God's Grand Plan.* Rehearsal is Saturday, December 19th from 9-10:30 AM. Reading parts for second-sixth graders will be assigned the week of November 15th. If you have questions, please contact DCE Jen Probst.

Christmas Concert

Our annual Christmas Concert featuring the Beecher Singers and Orchestra is **Sunday, December 20th** at 7 PM. Pre-concert harp recital at 6:40 PM. Please invite your friends and neighbors to attend this inspiring concert.

Spring Tea Planning

"Tea with a Twist" is the theme of our Spring Tea to be held on **Sunday, April 25th, 2027** from 2-4 PM. We are looking for creative individuals to help plan the festivities and entertainment around the serving of tea, scones, sandwiches, and desserts. The initial plan is to incorporate some musical entertainment, skits, and games, with activity booths set up for the littles to experience. If you enjoy planning entertainment, musical interludes, skits, and activities, please join us on **Wednesday, January 20th, 2027,** at 11 AM in the fellowship room with ideas and excitement. Looking forward to working with you and enjoying time serving our congregation together and creating a memorable afternoon of fellowship.

If you are interested, please contact any of the following core team members: Vicki Howarth 812-343-6967 dvhowarth@comcast.net, Lois Wischmeier 812-343-5232 henrywischmeier@att.net, Bonnie Nolting 812-447-3759 bonnienolting@gmail.com, Mary Booher 812-343-6454 maryabooher@comcast.net, or Elaine Wison 317-771-2121 elainesmith001@aol.com. Thank you!

Sunday Lunches

Spring Semester Sign-up: Volunteers are needed to provide lunches for those participating in afternoon activities: confirmation, youth choirs, youth groups, and Spanish Bible studies. The spring semester sign-up sheet is posted. Please sign up in the gathering space.

November 15th Spaghetti and Garlic Bread
November 22nd Chicken Wraps
November 29th Zwanzigz Pizza—Gingerbread Dough Making Day
December 6th Meatball Subs
December 13th Taco Bar
December 20th Pizza
December 27th Christmas Break – No Lunch Served

Official Acts

Steve and Lisa Seckman were received by adult confirmation on October 18th.

Pastor Eric and Linda Erkkinen were received by transfer on November 8th.

Jakob Mau and Madison Hunnicutt were united in marriage on October 16th.

Henry Hall and Annie Foster were united in marriage on October 31st.

Robert Donica entered into glory on October 29th and was given Christian burial on November 3rd.

Christmas Deadlines and Closings

The last day to order poinsettias is **Sunday, November 29th**. The form is included in this newsletter. The January Newsletter deadline is **Monday, December 14th**. Announcements for the December 27th and January 3rd bulletins should be submitted by 8 AM on **Monday, December 21st**. The church office will be closed from Wednesday, December 23rd through Friday, January 1st. If you need pastoral care during this time, please contact one of the pastors directly.

December Mission of the Month

The Mission of the Month is Worship Anew. Worship Anew broadcasts a weekly worship service for shut-ins and homebound. To access services online, to find a list of television stations, or to have the service emailed to you weekly, visit worshipanew.org.

SGOs Provide Support for Our School Families

Thanks to your generosity we have utilized **$95,800** in Scholarship Granting Organization scholarships for the 2026-2027 school year from the St. Paul SGO Fund. Families enrolled in Doves (4 year old) preschool and kindergarten are eligible to receive these scholarships.

First and most importantly, these scholarships allow families with financial need to attend our school. We never turn a child away because of finances as we want every child to hear God's Word and grow in the faith.

These scholarships also offset our congregation's support for school families. To keep tuition affordable for all our students, we

award a $2,865 St. Paul Scholarship for all Doves students and a $3,240 St. Paul Scholarship for all kindergarten students. The SGO funds are applied to offset some of the scholarship expenses, reducing the amount of our Sunday offerings needed to fund our school ministry.

These SGO gifts have a huge impact, and we are thankful for everyone who contributed to the St. Paul Lutheran SGO!

We invite you to participate in the Indiana St. Paul Lutheran SGO! Every gift directly supports our school students, **AND** you receive a 50% credit on your Indiana state income tax. For more information on how you can make a difference by supporting our St Paul Lutheran SGO, please see the announcement below or contact Rachel Fohne.

New for 2027: Federal St. Paul Lutheran SGO: The federal government is rolling out a national SGO program. After the first of the year, every taxpayer can contribute up to $1,700 which will be a 100% tax credit. In other words, you can give any amount up to $1,700, and you will receive all of it back as a credit on your federal taxes. Married couples filing jointly can receive up to a $3,400 credit!! More information about the federal St. Paul Lutheran SGO program and how to participate will be shared at the Annual Meeting.

We are truly grateful for your support for our early childhood ministry. Over 35% of our school families are unchurched so your generosity is making an eternity impact in the lives of our students and their families.

St. Paul Lutheran State SGO

A donation to our St. Paul Lutheran State SGO directly benefits our Early Childhood Ministry by helping us fund our mission and ministry! Donors receive a 50% state income tax **CREDIT!** You can donate stocks, bonds, mutual funds, grain, and livestock to the SGO and receive a 50% tax credit! Please consult your tax advisor for specific tax advice. You can visit www.lutheransgo.org for more information or speak with Rachel Fohne!

2026-2027 St. Paul SGO Fundraising Goal: $110,000
SGO Donation Total as of October 31, 2026: $20,550

Extending Christ's Love Pledges

Now is an excellent time to revisit your Extending Christ's Love pledge! The fulfillment of member pledges is an essential part of our Extending Christ's Love financial plan. If you have forgotten details about your pledge, need an update on how much you have donated, or need to adjust your pledge, please reach out to Rachel Fohne at rachel.fohne@stpaulcolumbus.org. If you know what you have pledged but have been unable to fulfill your pledge, please also reach out with this update to Rachel Fohne. These details help us with our financial planning. Thank you for your continued generosity and support!

Multiple Ways to Give

There are multiple ways to give to St. Paul such as cash and check, and online through the website or use the QR code. You can make a one-time donation or schedule weekly or monthly donations that you can adjust or cancel at any time. Please also consider donating appreciated securities such as stocks, bonds, and mutual funds as these donations could offer tax advantages to the donor. Farmers who donate a commodity such as grain could also receive valuable tax benefits. Please consult a professional tax advisor for any tax advice. If you have a question about donating to St. Paul, please reach out to Rachel Fohne at 812-343-3786 or rachel.fohne@stpaulcolumbus.org.



LWML News

Congratulations to Ethan Seifer for winning the euchre tourney on Friday! We hosted many euchre teams and two tables of non-euchre card and board games. What a wonderful night of fellowship, food, and fun with 41 people in attendance! $224 was collected for Concordia Counseling Center in Seymour. The next Family Game Night and Euchre Tourney is in 2027. Check the LWML bulletin board in January for accurate dates and times.

LWML Lutheran Women *in Mission*

The **Harvest Mission Project** concluded this October. We raised $134.55. Thank you to all who brought surplus produce, plants, and flowers to the Harvest Mission table in the gathering space. Your contribution is greatly appreciated.

The **2027 Annual Meeting** of the LWML is Saturday, January 23, at 9 AM in the fellowship room. All ladies (and men) are welcome to join us for a short devotion, a review of 2026, a preview of 2027, and a pitch-in luncheon. There will also be elections for both Vice President and Treasurer positions within St. Pauls' LWML. If you're interested in learning more, please contact Sierra Kalli (sierrajkalli@gmail.com) or Wendy Wiederhoeft (wendy.wiederhoeft@gmail.com).

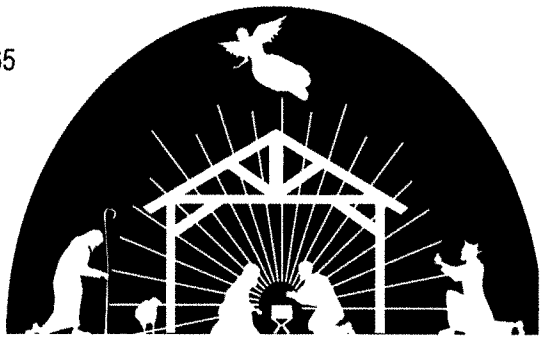
Do you have ideas for fellowship events, community outreach, or Bible studies? Even if you don't know how you can support or aren't interested in a board position, join us in January and help us plan for the new year!

During the fall gathering, Pastor Fickenscher spoke about the ongoing Hispanic outreach at Cornerstone-Warren in Indianapolis. The ministry received a $12,000 LWML Mission Grant to help support seminarians and new pastors in Spanish-speaking communities, to increase the local outreach in Indy, and to help send Hispanic teenagers to the National Youth Gathering next summer.

Save The Date: **LWML Retreat.** On April 16-17, 2027, there will be an LWML retreat at Farmstead Inn, in Shipshewana, Indiana. This retreat involves guest speaker Donna Snow, and a workshop lesson titled "Faithful in the Fire" based on Daniel 2:20. More details will come closer to the event.

Extending Christ's Love to Our Shut-ins and Homebound Members

Our shut-in and homebound members appreciate your prayers, cards, and visits. As you send Christmas cards this year, please consider sending Christmas greetings to our shut-ins and those experiencing health struggles.



Marilyn Brown 7051 South 250 East, Columbus, Indiana 47201
Ray and Sharon Cline 891 Country Manor Street, PO Box 784, North Vernon, Indiana 47265
Mary Ann Exner 9695 East Randal, Columbus, Indiana 47203
Phyllis Fox 10851 East 750 South, Elizabethtown, Indiana 47232
Amy Hand 2999 9th Street #21, Columbus, Indiana 47201
Dianne Hartke Vivera Senior Living, 1971 State Street #309, Columbus, Indiana 47201
Dorothy Hischke 2520 Wedgewood Drive, Columbus, Indiana 47203
Nancy Lipka 444 Manor Drive, Seymour, Indiana 47274
Paul Meier 3660 Central Avenue, Columbus, Indiana 47203
Catherine Nolting 2011 Chapa Drive, Columbus, Indiana 47203
Carol Probst 111 Church Ave, Seymour, Indiana 47274
Marilyn Runge 3915 East 300 South, Columbus, Indiana 47203
Jill Scheidt 1024 Lapwing Drive, Columbus, Indiana 47203
Alex Schuette Madison State Hospital, 711 Green Road, Madison, Indiana 47250
Gloria Schultz Belmont Health and Rehabilitation, 540 Belmont Drive, Columbus, Indiana 47201
Dee Schurman 8255 Hampton Cir E, Indianapolis, Indiana 46256
Evelyn Strietelmeier-Pence 790 Creekview Drive, Columbus, IN 47201
Joan Wilcox 2704 15th Street, Columbus, Indiana 47201
Charlotte Williams 4681 West Ridge Drive, Columbus, Indiana 47203
Gene Wint 111 Church Ave, Seymour, Indiana 47274
Pam Wint Traditions of Columbus, 4300 Goeller Road, Columbus, IN 47201

DECEMBER 2026

St. Paul Family Devotions

DAILY MEMORY WORK: Matthew 1:23

HYMN: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (LSB 357)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	1 Pray: Family members Read: Kid's choice of book	2 Pray: Prayer requests Learn: Books of the Bible	3 Pray: Luther's Evening Prayer Read: Bible story	4 Pray: Family at church Learn: Days of Creation	5 Pray: Godchildren/Baptism sponsors Sing: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (LSB 357)
6 Pray: Pastors Learn: Catechism	7 Pray: Lord's Prayer Learn: Nicene Creed	8 Pray: Missionaries Learn: Commandments	9 Pray: Prayer requests Learn: Books of the Bible	10 Pray: Luther's Evening Prayer Read: Bible story	11 Pray: Family at church Learn: Days of Creation	12 Pray: Godchildren/Baptism sponsors Sing: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (LSB 357)
13 Pray: Grandparents Learn: Catechism	14 Pray: Lord's Prayer Learn: Apostles' Creed	15 Pray: President and leaders Read: Kid's choice of book	16 Pray: Prayer requests Learn: Books of the Bible	17 Pray: Luther's Evening Prayer Read: Bible story	18 Pray: Family at church Learn: Days of Creation	19 Pray: Godchildren/Baptism sponsors Sing: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (LSB 357)
20 Pray: Pregnancy centers Learn: Catechism	21 Pray: Lord's Prayer Learn: Nicene Creed	22 Pray: Family members Learn: Commandments	23 Pray: Prayer requests Learn: Books of the Bible	24 Pray: Luther's Evening Prayer Read: Bible story	25 Pray: Family at church Learn: Days of Creation	26 Pray: Godchildren/Baptism sponsors Sing: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (LSB 357)
27 Pray: Teachers Learn: Catechism	28 Pray: Lord's Prayer Learn: Apostles' Creed	29 Pray: Missionaries Read: Kid's choice of book	30 Pray: Prayer requests Learn: Books of the Bible	31 Pray: Luther's Evening Prayer Read: Bible story	1	2

Christmas Poinsettias

As we prepare to celebrate our Savior's birth, we are gathering the names of those who wish to donate poinsettias to beautify the Lord's house this holiday season.

The cost for each plant is $10. Please make all checks payable to **BRUCE POLLERT**. Cash is also accepted.

Please fill out the form below and include it with your check or cash. It can be given to Bruce Pollert, placed in the offering plate, or mailed to the church office. All orders must be turned in no later than **Sunday, November 29th.** You may take your poinsettia home following the service on Christmas Day. Thanks for helping to beautify our Lord's House for this special day!

If you would like to donate one or more poinsettias, please fill out the following. Please **print legibly**:

Poinsettia donated by (YOUR name as you want in the bulletin):

_____

_____

Optional: Please indicate below if you are giving your poinsettias for a specific occasion:

Check one and specify below:

_____ in memory of

_____in thanksgiving for

_____in honor of

_____

_____

Name(s) of whom you want poinsettias to be in celebration of/for

Serving at St. Paul

Service	Usher Team	Elders	Greeters
8 AM	Team D	Adam Hall & Carl Shaffer	
10:45 AM	Team F	Wiley Umphress & Steve Voelz	

Day	Acolyte	Flowers	Radio	Fellowship Hour	Lunch
6	8 AM Andrew Johnson 10:45 AM Kaylin Umphress			Warren and Molly Scheidt	Jackie Arnholt
13	8 AM Naomi Lewis 10:45 AM Jewel Wofford			Umphress and Voelz Families	Paul and Sarah Gibson
20	8 AM Kinze Fischer 10:45 AM Faith Wofford		Larry and Sally Haak	Don Strietelmeier	Jacob and Toni Howarth
24 Christmas Eve 5:30 PM	Alex Essex				----------
25 Christmas Day 10 AM	Trey Price				----------
27	8 AM Henry Seifer 10:45 AM Emma Gibson	Bruce and Bonnie Nolting	Larry and Sally Haak	Randy Strietelmeier	No lunch served
31 New Year's Eve 5:30 PM	Lily Gibson				----------

St. Paul Lutheran Church
& Early Childhood Ministry

December 2026

Our Sunday Schedule
8 AM Divine Service
9:00 AM Radio Service
9:10 AM Fellowship
9:30 AM Sunday School
10:45 AM Divine Service English & Spanish
Noon Lunch (no lunch 12/27)
12:15 PM Confirmation (no class 12/27)
12:15 PM Spanish Bible Study (no class 12/20, 12/27)
12:45 PM Jr. Handchimes (no practice 12/20, 12/27)
1:15 PM Jr. Handbellls (no practice12/20, 12/27)
7 PM Lutheran Hour

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Radio Service and Lutheran Hour can be found on 91.1 FM Columbus/Madison, 89.1 FM Greensburg, 88.1 FM Versailles/Osgood, and 94.5 FM Salem		1 8:30 AM Gingerbread House Baking 9 AM-Noon OGT Workday	2 9 AM Bible Study **10:15 AM Matins** 5:45 PM Handbells **6:45 PM Advent Service** 7:45 PM Choir	3 6 PM Tri-W Meeting	4	5 11 AM-6 PM Church Reserved
6 Mite Box Sunday Jr. Choir 2-8 PM Church Reserved 12:15 PM Icing Making 1:45 PM SPY and C4Life Christmas Party Education Building	7 10 AM Moms in the Word 10 AM Homeschool Religion Class 10 AM Small Group Handbells 5:30-10 PM Church Reserved	8	9 9 AM Bible Study 10 AM Gingerbread House Assembly **10:15 AM Matins** 5:45 PM Handbells **6:45 PM Advent Service** 7:45 PM Choir	10	11 5-9 PM Church Reserved	12
13 Sr. Handbells Christmas Family Fun Night 3 PM Caroling 5 PM Supper and activities	14 January Newsletter Deadline 10 AM Homeschool Religion Class 10 AM Small Group Handbells	15	16 Church Reserved 9 AM Bible Study **10:15 AM Matins** 5:45 PM Handbells **6:45 PM Advent Service** 7:45 PM Choir	17 ECM Parents Day All Classes Meet **8:20 AM Chapel** No Extended Care 1:30 PM Hickory Creek Visit	18 Church Reserved	19 Church Reserved 9-10:30 AM Children's Service Rehearsal **5 PM Las Posadas Service and Fiesta**
20 **10:45 AM Children's Christmas Service** 6:40 PM Pre-Concert Harp Recital 7 PM Christmas Concert	21 No School 12/21-1/1 8 AM Deadline for 12/27 and 1/3 Bulletins 10 AM Small Group Handbells	22	23 9 AM Bible Study **10:15 AM Matins** 5:45 PM Handbells **6:45 PM Advent Service** 7:45 PM Choir Church Office Closed 12/23-1/1	24 Christmas Eve 5:10 PM Carol Singing **5:30 PM Candlelight Service — English and Spanish** Jr. Choir 9:40 PM Carol Singing **10 PM Communion Candlelight Service** Sr. Choir	25 Christmas Day **10 AM Festival Communion Service** Sr. Handbells	26
27 **Christmas Celebration Sunday** Small Group Handbells	28	29	30	31 **5:30 PM New Years Eve Service**		

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

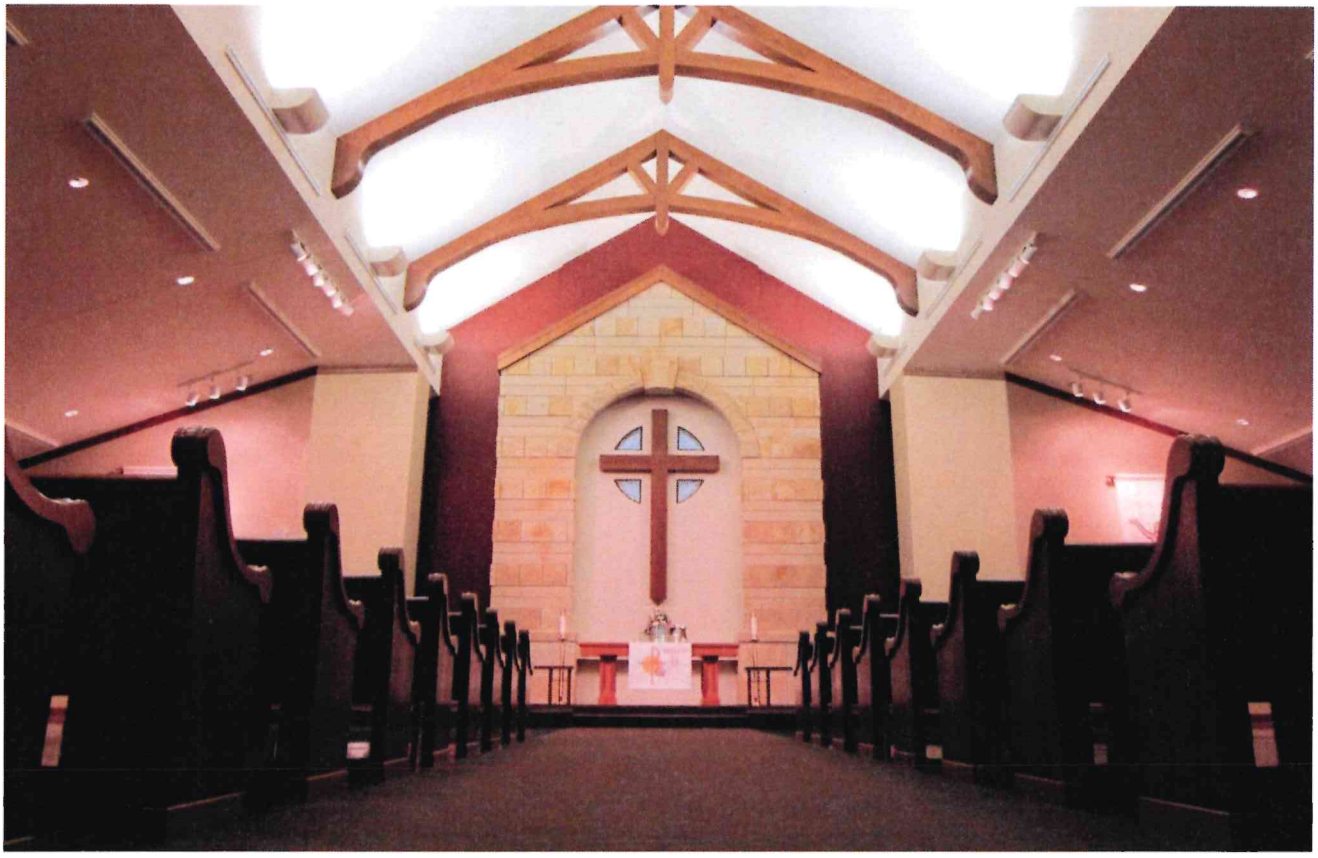
PRESENTED BY

Second Presbyterian Church
Beecher Singers & Orchestra

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2026, 7:00 P.M.

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



St. Paul Lutheran Church

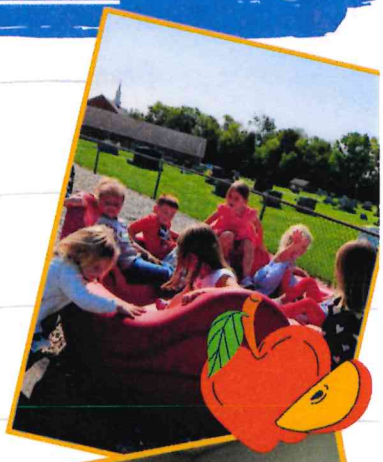
6045 E. State Street, Columbus, Indiana

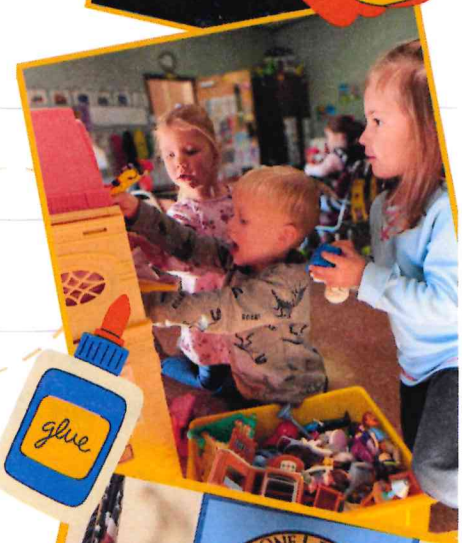
You are cordially invited to attend.
Admission is free.

St. Paul Lutheran
Early Childhood Ministry

WWW.STPAULCOLUMBUS.ORG | 6045 E STATE STREET COLUMBUS, IN 47201
(812) 376-6504 | JENNIFER.PROBST@STPAULCOLUMBUS.ORG

PLEASE JOIN US IN OUR BRAND NEW EDUCATION CENTER!







- Christ-centered and Biblically based
- National Lutheran School Accredited
- Follows Indiana Academic Standards
- Minds in Motion program
- Weekly music lessons
- STREAM enrichment opportunity
- Family activities
- Parenting resources available
- Experienced and degreed staff
- Before/After school care
- Low teacher- to- student ratios
- Great classroom spaces, a new building, and new playground beginning August 2027!

2027-2028 REGISTRATION