

St. Paul Epistle

The Monthly Newsletter of St. Paul Lutheran Church

December 2025

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St. Paul Early Childhood Ministry

Jen Probst, Director

Anne Wiltsey, Kindergarten Teacher

Michelle Schultz, Alyssa Schultz, and

Glory Wofford, Preschool Teachers

Gayla Alesandro, Sarah Lewis, Laurie Schultz,

Claudia Sims, Caroline Wilcox, 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

The AdventS of Our King

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Savior of the Nations, Come
Once He Came in Blessing
Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending
Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns
Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes
Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come
Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring

The word "advent" means "coming". It's amazing how many of our Advent hymns include the word "come" in their titles. However, not all these hymns center on the same coming of Christ our Savior. During the season of Advent, we typically focus on Christ's first coming at His incarnation, when He takes on our human flesh in the womb of the Virgin Mary, and His birth in Bethlehem. However, the season of Advent extols all the AdventS of our Lord—His first advent at His birth more than 2,000 years ago, His coming to us through His Word and His body and blood in the Lord's Supper, and His final advent when He comes in glory on the Last Day.

Although our Advent hymns confess Christ's coming, they don't all sing of the same advent of Christ. Many hymns focus on one of these three comings, while others tell of two or even all three advents of Christ. For our midweek services, through Word and song, we will prepare for the celebration of our Savior's birth as we gather around the theme *The AdventS of Our King*.

Wednesday, December 3 at 6:45 PM—He Came

Wednesday, December 10 at 6:45 PM—He Comes

Wednesday, December 17 at 6:45 PM—He Will Come

Advent and the Twelve Days of the Christmas season give us many opportunities to come to God's house for worship and fellowship. This sacred season provides us with the ability to invite others to "Come and see" (John 1:46). Consider those you can invite to these services and events that celebrate Christ's coming among us:

Sunday, December 14 at 8 and 10:45 AM Advent Service of Song

Sunday, December 14 at 3 PM Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 14 at 5 PM Christmas Family Fun Night

Saturday, December 20 at 5 PM Las Posadas Service and Fiesta

Sunday, December 21 at 10:45 AM Children's Christmas Service

Sunday, December 21 at 7 PM Christmas Concert

Christmas Eve, December 24 at 5:30 and 10 PM Candlelight Services

Each service is preceded by 20 minutes of carol singing; 10 PM Service includes Communion

Christmas Day, December 25 at 10 AM Festival Communion Service

Sunday, December 28 Christmas Celebration Sunday

New Year's Eve, December 31 at 5:30 PM New Year's Eve Service

Friday-Saturday, January 2-3 Youth Lock-In at St. John's Aurora

Sunday, January 4 Celebration of Epiphany

I pray God's richest blessings upon you as we enter the new church year and prepare for our Savior's comingS among us. It is a joy to serve as your pastor as we continue to be built up and firmly founded the Solid Rock of Jesus Christ and His Word and extend the love of Christ through our faithful Christian witness, service, and care.

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

Pastor Bauman





Musical Notes

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art,
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

LSB 338, Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus, is from the pen of the prolific hymn writer, Charles Wesley. This text serves as an introduction to the season of Advent, as we await the coming of God's only Son, our Savior. One characteristic of Wesley's writing is the use of the word, "dear." Additionally, his texts display reverence and balance between "Abba" and "awe"—God as our most loving Father, and God as the Almighty, all-powerful creator of the universe. The tune, JEFFERSON, is found in the early American hymnal, Walker's Southern Harmony, and paints the text in a restrained, yet most convincing manner. It is also both easily sung and remembered.

The phrase, "Let us find our rest in Thee" is particularly appropriate for the Advent and Christmas seasons. We are busy with all of the preparations for the rapidly approaching holidays, both at church and at home. It's a joyous time of year—but also a time that becomes all-consuming of our time and energy. Our focus needs to be on the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ, the Son of God, our Savior! The newborn baby in the manger that laid the foundations of the world, that will suffer and die as an atonement for all our sins, and rise from the dead that we might live eternally. We can indeed rest in the knowledge that we are saved by the greatest gift of all, Jesus Christ. We join with the angels in singing, "Glory to God in the highest, and on the earth, peace, and good will towards men."

The Lutheran pastor and hymn writer, Paul Gerhardt, beautifully states the joy of Christmas in the opening stanza of LSB 372:

O Jesus Christ,
Thy manger is
My paradise at which my soul reclineth.
For there, O Lord,
Doth lie the Word
Made flesh for us; herein Thy grace forth shineth.

God's blessings to you as we sing, rejoice, and find our rest in Christ during Advent and Christmas!

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 from 9:30-9:50 am.

Choristers rehearse on Sundays from 12:15-12:45 pm.

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 from 10:00-11:00 am.

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

kantor@StPaulColumbus.org

Thank you!



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

For me, the month of December provides additional opportunities for us to gather as immediate, extended, and faith families. During this time, our focus turns to the Biblical families found in the Gospel accounts of Matthew and Luke. God blessed Zechariah and Elizabeth with the birth of a son, John the Baptist, in their old age. At God's direction, John the Baptist prepared God's people for the arrival of Jesus. John pointed to Jesus as the One who would take away the sins of the world.

The highlight of our family celebrations in December centers on Jesus' arrival as a baby to His earthly family. God sent His Son, Jesus, to be cared for by Mary and Joseph. Jesus grew and became strong. Jesus was born to take away our sins by dying on the cross and coming back to life on Easter.

In December, our church and early childhood ministry invites families and friends to activities designed to prepare for and point to Jesus. During Family Fun Night, we sing songs of Jesus' birth to members of our faith family who are shut in. That same night, we gather as an extended family to share a meal, build community through gingerbread house decorating, and reflect in devotions our joy in Jesus at Christmastime. During the Children's Christmas Service, our church and school families hear our children share the good news of Jesus' birth. December also offers additional times for us to worship as a family of faith through Wednesday Advent services, Christmas eve, and Christmas day services.

Christmas is a time for family. Through God's Son, Jesus, we are made brothers and sisters in Christ. Thanks to Jesus' saving acts on our behalf, we are now called children of God. We can find abundant love, protection, and provision in God, our Heavenly Father. God continues to give us His good gifts through our immediate, extended, and family of faith every day of the year. God's richest blessings to you each time we gather as the family of God.

~Blessings,

Jen Probst, ECM Director



- 1 – Moms in the Word at 10:00 AM
- 14 – Family Fun Night at 5:00 PM
- 18 – Parents' Day at 8:20 AM
- 20 – Children's Christmas Practice at 9:00 AM
- 21 – Children's Christmas Service at 10:45 AM
- Dec 22 to Jan 2** – Christmas Break

Early Childhood Ministry Registration 2026-2027

Registration for the 2026-2027 school year for church member families and families of current students begins on **Monday, November 17th**. Open registration begins **Monday, November 24th**. A email with the link to the registration forms will be sent out to members of the congregation and current ECM families on **Monday, November 17th**. Registration is first come, first served. A non-refundable \$75 deposit will be collected upon registration.

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.



Christian Education

Biblical Translations and Interpretations

The Bible readings this month will take us to the end of the New Testament. It is amazing to see how small specific goals of daily Bible readings and the intentional practice of spending time in God's Word will strengthen the foundation of our faith. I want to challenge you to continue with this practice by reading through the Old Testament, beginning in January.

As we make plans to dig deeper into God's Word, we have the opportunity to be strategic in the version of Scripture we read. It is important to ensure that the version of the Bible that you read is a true translation of God's Word. There are so many versions available. Below you will find an example of how different versions of John 3:16-18 vary and how they impact what you learn from the text.

The original languages of the Bible were written in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. Thanks to men like Martin Luther, they translated the original text into the different languages of God's people. This gives people the opportunity to directly read and learn from the Bible. The work of translating the Bible is still being done today, as many people still do not have God's Word written in their own language.

It is critical to ensure that the version of the Bible you are reading is an accurate translation of the original text. The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod has selected the English Standard Version (ESV) of the Bible to use in our instructional and worship materials. Please exercise caution when using paraphrased versions of the Bible. While they are considered easier to read, their interpretation can lead the reader to an incorrect understanding of God's Word.

We see an example of this when we compare the ESV to a paraphrased version of Scripture. Please note the bold and underlined words in the examples below. There is a big difference between words that clearly state Jesus' saving work (ESV) and merely helping people in a sinful world (paraphrased). Jesus **SAVED** us from our sins. To write that Jesus only **HELPS** the world indicates that the burden of salvation relies on our own actions. The bold and italicized phrase in the paraphrased version of the Bible also reinforces a salvation by individual works.

Words matter. God's Word saves. When making a selection on the translation of the Bible that you use, Martin Luther encourages individuals to pick a translation and stick with it. We also have the promise of the Holy Spirit to give us an understanding of what we read. If you have additional questions about Bible translation and different versions of Scripture, please reach out to one of the pastors.

Greek: John 3:16-18	English Standard Version	The Message (paraphrased)
Thus for loved God the world that the Son the only begotten He gave so that everyone believing in Him not should perish but should have life eternal. Not for sent God His Son into the world that He might judge the world but that might be <u>saved</u> the world through Him. The believing on Him not is judged the but not believing already has been judged because not he has believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.	For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be <u>saved</u> through Him. Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.	This is how much God loved the world: He gave His Son, His one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in Him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life. God didn't go to all the trouble of sending His Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He came to <u>help</u> , to put the world right again. Anyone who trusts in Him is acquitted; anyone who refuses to trust Him has long since been under the death sentence without knowing it. And why? Because of that person's failure to believe in the one-of-a-kind Son of God when <i>introduced to Him</i> .

Daily December Bible Readings					
1	1 Corinthians 9-11	11	Romans 14-16	21	Hebrews 1-6
2	1 Corinthians 12-14	12	Acts 20:4-23:35	22	Hebrews 7-10
3	1 Corinthians 15-16	13	Acts 24-26	23	Hebrews 11-13
4	2 Corinthians 1-4	14	Acts 27-28	24	2 Timothy 1-4
5	2 Corinthians 5-9	15	Colossians 1-4; Philemon 1	25	2 Peter 1-3; Jude 1
6	2 Corinthians 10-13	16	Ephesians 1-6	26	1 John 1-5
7	Acts 20:1-3; Romans 1-3	17	Philippians 1-4	27	2 John 1; 3 John 1
8	Romans 4-7	18	1 Timothy 1-6	28	Revelation 1-5
9	Romans 8-10	19	Titus 1-3	29	Revelation 6-11
10	Romans 11-13	20	1 Peter 1-5	30	Revelation 12-18
				31	Revelation 19-22

Sunday School Lessons

Dec	<u>First Steps of Faith</u> <i>Infant to 2-year-olds</i>	<u>Early Elementary</u> <i>Preschool to 4th Grade</i>	<u>Upper Elementary</u> <i>5th & 6th Grade</i>	<u>Confirmation</u> <i>7th & 8th Grade</i>
7	Advent-Mary	Births Announced	Transfiguration	Baptism Third
14	Advent-Shepherds	Birth of John the Baptist	Zacchaeus	Baptism Fourth
21	Christmas	<i>Christmas Service Practice</i>		Review
28	Wise men	The Birth of Jesus	Lost Parables	Christmas Party

Senior High (9th to 12th Grade): Resilient Minds: Christ-centered Mental Health

December 28 – Youth Christmas Party (Gift Exchange: Favorite Christmas Treats, \$10 value)

Sunday Adult Bible Study – *Nicene Creed* - Fellowship Room (Pastor Bauman)

– *Early Church* - Gathering Space (Deaconess Taylor Brown Fickenscher)

Wednesday Adult Bible Studies

Moms in the Word - Dec. 1 at 10:00 AM

9:00 AM – Hebrews

6:00 PM – Isaiah

Youth Ministry

Gifts of Time and Talent:

Acolytes			Music	
8:00 AM	10:45 AM		8:00 AM	10:45 AM
Addy Arnholt	Leo Patterson	7	Sr. Handbells	
Julia Burbrink	Clark Neawedde	14	String Quartet	
Kinze Fischer	Ellis Sperry	21	Sr. Handbells	All Jr. Choirs and Bells
5:30 PM–Faith Wofford	10:00 PM - None	24	Jr. Choir (5:30PM)	Sr. Choir (10:00PM)
10:00 AM – Faith Fohne		25	No Choirs Sing	
Danial Helt	Kevin Chun Escalante	28	Small Group Handbells	
5:30 PM – Alex Essex		31	No Choirs Sing	

Connecting to Others:

 Kids for Christ youth group for preschool to 5th Grade	<u>Sunday, December 14</u> beginning at 5:00 PM (at the Church) Family and friends are invited to join us for an evening of food fun! We begin our time together with a meal. After supper, families will be invited to decorate a gingerbread house that they can take home.
C4Life <i>Christ for Life youth group for 6th to 8th Grade</i> <u>Sunday, December 14</u> – Family Fun Night 3:00 PM – Please share your voice as we travel to shut ins and share the good news of Jesus’ birth through Christmas songs. 5:00 PM – Put your decorating skills to the test as we make gingerbread houses! Will your design win a prize? <u>Sunday, December 28</u> – Youth Christmas Party During the Bible Study hour, youth will come together for a special celebration of Jesus’ birth. We will have a devotion, activities, and a gift exchange. Youth are encouraged to wrap their favorite Christmas treat (valued at \$10) for a chance to receive another tasty item.	SPY <i>St. Paul Youth group for High School students</i> <u>Sunday, December 7:</u> Icing Making After the dough is made and the pieces of the gingerbread houses are baked, we need to make the icing to connect and decorate these delicious masterpieces. Join us at noon to whip up some royal icing. <i>Same Youth Activities listed under C4Life</i> <u>Ongoing Registrations:</u> - Aurora Lock in (<i>Due</i> – December 14) - For Junior and Senior High - Higher Things (<i>Due</i> – January 25, 2026) - For 8th Grade through Senior High

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

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



St. Paul Lutheran Church
& Early Childhood Ministry

News and Notes

The Blessings Keep Coming!

Our Lord is the God from whom all blessings flow, and we are so thankful for His continued grace and blessing! We were blessed with a beautiful fall day for our Groundbreaking service and celebration. Thanks to all who served in our choirs, provided food, and led our youth events.

We have officially entered the construction phase of the project. Sitework will be starting soon! Work will continue in the coming weeks as weather permits.

We are so thankful for your generous support of Extending Christ's Love. Please consider bringing baked goods for Baking for the Building on November 16th and/or taking baked goods home with you for a freewill donation. We also thank everyone who has donated items for the Silent Auction. Bidding begins on Sunday, November 16th and concludes at the Annual Meeting on November 30th.

Another significant development in the past weeks is that the anonymous donor of the \$1 million estate pledge has modified their pledge to a four-year of \$250,000 per year for four years. The first installment of this pledge was received in October. By the donor choosing to fulfill their pledge now instead of later, we will save thousands of dollars in interest.

You also can help us lower our financing charges by accelerating fulfillment of your pledge, increasing your pledge, or making a pledge to Extending Christ's Love if you have not already done so. The more that is contributed in the coming months results in the less we need to finance through Lutheran Church Extension Fund.

The Finance Committee revised the Budget Blueprint since the construction cost is nearly \$300,000 under budget, the change in the \$1 million estate pledge, and an increase in the endowment pledge. The current Budget Blueprint is estimating that our loan at the end of Extending Christ's Love when Extending Christ's Love campaign ends in December 2029 will be \$1,230,000. By comparison, the LCEF loan amount at the end of the capital campaign for the church in 2011 was \$1,200,000. If we continue in our generous support of Extending Christ's Love, we will be in a similar financial position as we were with the construction of the church. To God be the glory!

We are nearing our fundraising goal for the playground project with less than \$17,000 needed to fully fund this project. All gifts will be matched dollar-for-dollar.

Coming soon—Catalog of Needed Items: In the coming months, we will release a Catalog of Items needed for the Christian Education Center and the remodeled office space in the existing church. Members, school families, and nonmembers can sponsor furnishings, appliances, and other items included in the Catalog. Items can be sponsored in memory of or honor of a loved one or in thanksgiving. Donors will be listed in the Dedication Bulletin for the Christian Education Center.

We are so grateful for your continued prayers and support. We welcome your questions. Please contact Warren Scheidt chair of the Building Committee, or Phil Burbrink chair of the Finance Committee. If you have questions about your pledge or are interested in making a special gift, please contact Rachel Fohne.

Baking for the Building and Silent Auction

Baking for the Building to benefit Extending Christ Love is **Sunday, November 16th**. Please consider baking one or more desserts. Desserts can be dropped off at church on Saturday morning from 8-10 AM or Sunday before first service. Desserts will be available for a freewill donation after either service.

In addition to baked goods, we will also have a Silent Auction which will begin on November 16th and end at the annual meeting on Sunday, November 30th.

We are so grateful for your prayers and ongoing financial support for Extending Christ's Love.



ECM Registration

Registration for the 2026-2027 school year for church member families and families of current students begins on **Monday, November 17th**. Open registration begins **Monday, November 24th**.

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!

In addition to the above, we are implementing a number of changes to our kindergarten program to better serve our students and their families.

- The kindergarten school day will be lengthened to 12:15 PM to allow more instruction time.
- Flexible pick-up time: Parents can pick up kindergarten students anytime between 12:15-2:30 PM at no additional cost.
- Kindergarten students can participate in the Wednesday afternoon STREAM program at no additional cost.
- Extended care is available before school or from 2:30-4:30 PM for a nominal fee.

Kindergarten and STREAM are available at no cost to enrolled families through Indiana School Choice.

For more information, please contact Director Jen Probst.

Thanksgiving Eve Service

On **Wednesday, November 26th** 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 of the service is *The Grateful Leper* based on Luke 17:11-19.

Annual Meeting

We want you at this year's annual meeting on **Sunday, November 30th**! We will review reports from our boards and staff for the past year and approve the mission and ministry budget for 2026 as well as ratify officers. 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 on November 16th. 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.

Gingerbread House Donations

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 30th.

Volunteers are Needed to help bake and construct gingerbread houses beginning on **Monday, December 1st**. The gingerbread houses will be assembled on **Wednesday, December 10th**.

Midweek Advent Services

The AdventS of Our King is the theme of our Midweek Advent services. Our Advent services are **Wednesdays, December 3rd, 10th, and 17th** beginning at 6:45 PM. Please plan to attend and invite others as we prepare and rejoice in Christ's comingS to us!

Christmas Family Fun Night

Please join us as we go Christmas Caroling to our shut-ins on **Sunday, December 14th**. 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.

Parents Night Out

Moms in the Word will be hosting a parents night out event on **Friday, December 19th** from 5:30-8:30 PM. Drop off your kids in their favorite Christmas jammies and pick them up fed and ready for bed! This event will be a fundraiser for the new playground.

Las Posada Service and Fiesta

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

Children's Christmas Service

The Children's Christmas Service is **Sunday, December 21st** at the 10:45 AM service. The theme this year is *Built on the Rock*. Rehearsal is Saturday, December 20th from 9-10:30 AM. Reading parts for third-sixth graders will be assigned the week of November 16th. If you have any questions, please contact DCE Jen Probst.

Annual Christmas Concert

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

Christian Leadership Discussion Class

Beginning **Sunday, January 4th** and continuing through **Sunday, March 8th**, Zach Mathews will be leading a Christian leadership class using the resource: *Developing the Leader Within You 2.0* by John Maxwell. The course equips participants with the essential principles and practical tools to grow as effective leaders, emphasizing that leadership is developed—not innate. Through ten foundational lessons—including influence, priorities, character, positive change, problem solving, attitude, service, vision, self-discipline, and personal growth—the course provides actionable strategies for inspiring and motivating others in any leadership role. Participants will learn how to leverage the Five Levels of Leadership, cultivate ethical character, serve others, and cast compelling vision, all while engaging in self-assessment and interactive discussions designed to foster integrity, self-discipline, and positive organizational impact. This course is ideal for both new and experienced leaders seeking to enhance their leadership capacity and drive meaningful change within their teams and organizations.

All are invited to participate in the class. However, you must sign up by **Sunday, December 7th** so that materials can be ordered. Please register for the class by contacting Zach in person, by phone, or email (812-603-9981; zachmathews1@gmail.com).

Mission of the Month

Our December Mission of the Month is Hospice. Hospice provides compassionate care for patients and their families in their final days.

Christmas Deadlines and Closings

The last day to order poinsettias is **Sunday, November 30th**. The form is included in this newsletter. The January Newsletter deadline is **Monday, December 8th**. Announcements for the December 28th and January 4th bulletins should be submitted by 8 AM on **Monday, December 22nd**. The church office will be closed from Tuesday, December 23rd through Friday, January 2nd. If you need pastoral care during this time, please contact one of the pastors directly.

Sunday Lunches

We offer lunches for those participating in afternoon events. If you are interested in serving, please sign-up in the gathering space.

November 16th—Chicken Nuggets—KfC Day

November 23rd—Mexican Food

November 30th—Zwanzig Pizza—Dough Making Day

December 7th—Chicken Sandwiches

December 14th—Taco Bar

December 21st and 28th—No Lunch Served; Christmas Break

St. Paul Lutheran SGO

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

Did you know that you can give your RMD from your IRA as a QCD to our SGO??? Let me break that down for you! For those who are over the age of 73 who have a traditional IRA, required minimum distributions begin to take place. When you give your RMD to our St. Paul Scholarship Granting Organization, you are eligible to receive 50% back as a state tax credit. The gift is a qualified charitable distribution. A donation to our St. Paul SGO directly benefits our Early Childhood Ministry by helping us fund our mission and ministry! The SGO can be an excellent way to maximize your charitable contributions.

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

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

Amount Contributed as of October 31: \$55,941.45

Our Christian Stewardship

We are grateful for your joyful and generous response to our Lord's blessings through your gifts and offerings. Your faithful stewardship enables us to proclaim the Word so that we can remain firmly founded on Christ, the Rock of our salvation, and proclaim this saving Word to others.

January-October 2025 Financial Report

Offerings Needed: \$685,119

Offerings Received: \$664,973

Surplus/(Deficit): (\$20,146)

Total Income: \$900,328

Total Expenses: \$850,546

Surplus/(Deficit): \$49,782

If you have any questions about our church finances, please contact Treasurer Mary Ann Nunn, Financial Secretary Rachel Fohne, or a member of the Board of Stewardship.

Official Acts

Thomas Randall Chandler, son of Brent and Kim Chandler, was baptized into Christ on November 2nd.

Beverly Campbell was received by transfer on October 26th.

Doug and Rhodie Brown were received by affirmation of faith on November 2nd.

Paul and Lisa Wendel were received by transfer on November 2nd.

Toni Howarth was received by adult confirmation on November 9th.

Irma Marie Ramsey entered into glory on October 29th. Funeral service was November 10th.

Earl D. Stam entered into glory on November 2nd and was given Christian burial on November 12th.

Simeon Bauman transferred his membership to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Grafton, Wisconsin.

Latino Outreach Report

We continue to be blessed with exciting growth in numbers! On a Sunday afternoon in October, when only a few of us were still lingering in the building, a gentleman entered the church saying that his family was looking for a church to attend. The following Sunday, Groundbreaking Sunday, we were thrilled to welcome him and five other adults from his family for the celebratory breakfast. I wanted to make sure they got to meet our other Latino families, but there wouldn't have been enough chairs in the fellowship hall for us to sit together, so we made ourselves comfortable in the gathering space. When it was time for worship, we needed to add more chairs for our setup in the fellowship hall for the Spanish Service of the Word, and for the Service of the Sacrament I didn't have a seat in the choir section. What a fitting problem to have on Groundbreaking Sunday! The family has continued to attend and initiated the conversation on what we should serve for the confirmation lunch on November 23rd. Kids, you're in for a treat! As we strive above all else to be faithful to God and His Word, let us also rejoice in the growth that He has granted.

Don't miss out on being a part of this fun, faithful, growing group. Join us for the annual Las Posadas Christmas celebration on Saturday, December 20, at 5 PM. Las Posadas (the inns) commemorates Joseph and Mary's search for a place to stay in Bethlehem. Enjoy good eats, bilingual worship, fun singing, and hitting a piñata. It's a blast!

--Pastor Fickenscher

LWML News

Thank you to all who gifted our congregation with surplus produce, plants, and flowers, and to those who donated money to take home that surplus, as part of the **Harvest Mission** this year. We raised more than \$100 for St. Paul's Food Bank through this outreach. Shout out to Nora Cleary and everyone who helped keep the table clean and ready.

The last Euchre Tourney and game night of the year was November 7 in the fellowship room. Twenty-eight people attended, and more than \$160 was collected. That money will help with shipping and packaging costs for the military care packages that will go out early in the new year. Watch the LWML bulletin board and Sunday bulletins after the new year for a military member wish list. THANK YOU!

St. Peter's LWML in Columbus is hosting **Advent by Candlelight** on Friday, December 5, at 7 PM. This is an opportunity for all women of St. Peter's and sister congregations to gather in worship as we prepare for the coming of Jesus. The evening will be filled with song, laughter, and words of inspiration. The guest speaker is Judy Peterson, daughter of Donna Reeves, who will share what it means to ABIDE in Jesus. If you are interested in hosting a table or attending the event, please reach out to Sariina Kalli at run4evr7@hotmail.com or 218-451-1026. It would be wonderful to fill at least a table of eight for this event!

The **2026 LWML Annual Meeting** is **Saturday, January 10**, 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 luncheon (theme TBD). We will also be electing a president and secretary for the next two-year term. Even if you're not interested in a leadership position at this time, we invite you to join us to plan the new year.

The offices of **LWML president and secretary** are up for election in January. The **president** serves as chair of the annual meeting in January and all meetings of the executive committee. She also serves on all other committees and calls special meetings if needed (often by email and/or text). The **secretary** is responsible for keeping accurate records of January's annual meeting and all executive meetings, and publicizing all [local, zone, and national] meetings and activities of the LWML in church bulletins and newsletters. If you are interested in taking on a new role with us, please reach out to any member of the current board.

The next **Euchre Tourney & Family Game Night** will be **Friday, February 6** at 6 PM in the fellowship room. This will be the first game night of 2026, and it will be one week earlier so as not to interfere with all your Valentine's plans. Mark your calendars now to join us again in February. Remember, games other than euchre are always available.

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

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 1971 State Street #309, Columbus, Indiana 47201

Dorothy Hischke 2520 Wedgewood Drive, Columbus, Indiana 47203

Pam Jenkins Hickory Creek 5480 E 25th Street, Columbus, Indiana 47203

Nancy Lipka 444 Manor Drive, Seymour, Indiana 47274

Evelyn Pence 5640 West Goeller Road, Columbus, Indiana 47201

Dennis Peters 3715 Richland Drive, Columbus, Indiana 47203

Amy Price Lutheran Community Home, 111 Church Avenue, Seymour, Indiana 47274

Jim and Carol Probst 9163 Janelle Dr, Seymour, IN 47274

Bob and Marilyn Runge 3915 East 300 South, Columbus, Indiana 47203

Jill Scheidt 5501 American Boulevard W, Unit 311, Bloomington, Minnesota 55437

Alex Schuette Madison State Hospital, 711 Green Road, Madison, Indiana 47250

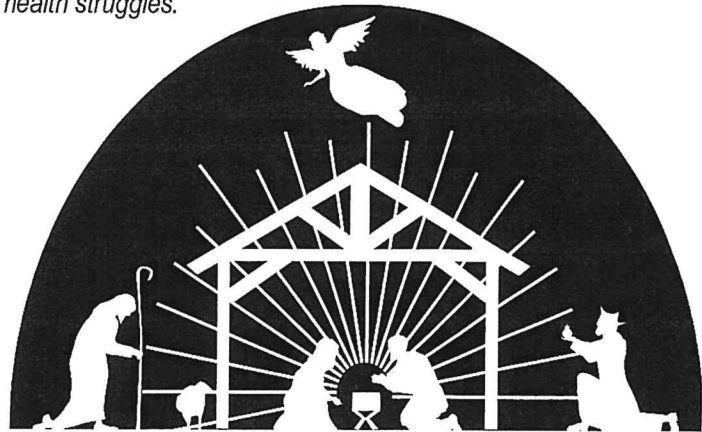
Gloria Schultz Belmont Health and Rehabilitation, 540 Belmont Drive, Columbus, Indiana 47201

Lorraine Whitson 7785 N 700 W, Elizabethtown, Indiana 47232

Joan Wilcox 2704 15th Street, Columbus, Indiana 47201

Charlotte Williams 4681 West Ridge Drive, Columbus, Indiana 47203

Gene Wint Cedar Creek Attn: Gene Wint, 2288 Nicholas Court Apt 137, Seymour, Indiana 47274





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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
7	8 AM Addy Arnholt	Glenn and Barbara Hughes		Taylor and Vogel Families	Laws Family
	10:45 AM Leo Patterson				
14	8 AM Julia Burbrink			Frank and Genny Helt	Helt Family
	10:45 AM Clark Neawedde				
21	8 AM Kinze Fischer		Larry and Sally Haak	Pastor and Michelle Bauman	No Lunch
	10:45 AM Ellis Sperry				
24 Christmas Eve 5:30 PM	Faith Wofford	Poinsettias	----	----	----
25 Christmas Day 10 AM	Faith Fohne	Poinsettias	----	----	----
28	8 AM Danial Helt		Larry and Sally Haak	Potter Family	No Lunch
	10:45 AM Kevin Chun Escalante				
31 New Years Eve 5:30 PM	Alex Essex	Poinsettias	----	----	----



St. Paul Lutheran Church & Early Childhood Ministry

December 2025

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 (only 12/7, 12/14)
12:15 PM Confirmation (class 12/7, 12/14)
12:15 PM Spanish Bible Study
12:15 PM Choristers (practice 12/7, 12/14)

12:45 PM Jr. Handchimes (practice 12/7, 12/14)
1:15 PM Jr. Handbells (practice 12/7, 12/14)
7 PM Lutheran Hour

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 10 AM Moms in the Word 10 AM Homeschool Religion Class 10 AM Small Group Handbells	2 9 AM-Noon OGT Work Day	3 9 AM Bible Study 10:15 AM Matins 5:45 PM Handbells 6:45 PM Advent Service 7:45 PM Choir	4 6 PM Tri-W Meeting	5 Wedding Rehearsal	6 Nay-Branaman Wedding
7 Mite Box Sunday Sr. Handbells	8 January Newsletter Deadline 9:30 AM Homeschool Religion Class 10 AM Small Group Handbells	9 11 AM-3 PM Church Re-served	10 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	11	12 Wedding Rehearsal	13 Davidson-Smith Wedding
14 Advent Service of Song 3 PM Christmas Caroling 5 PM Christmas Family Fun Night	15 Pastor Patterson on vacation 12/15-12/23 9:30 AM Homeschool Religion Class 10 AM Small Group Handbells 5:30 PM Girl Scouts	16 5:30-9 PM Church Re-served	17 Church Reserved 9 AM Bible Study 10:15 AM Matins 5:45 PM Handbells 6:45 PM Advent Service 7:45 PM Choir	18 ECM Parents Day All Classes Meet 8:20 AM Chapel No Extended Care 1:30 PM Hickory Creek Visit	19 Church Reserved 5:30-8:30PM Parents Night Out	20 9-10:30 AM Children's Service Rehearsal 5 PM Las Posadas Service and Fiesta
21 Sr. Handbells 10:45 AM Children's Christmas Service No Spanish Service Noon Confirmation Make-up/work ahead 7 PM Christmas Concert	22 8 AM Deadline for 12/28 and 1/4 Bulletins No School 12/22-1/2 10 AM Small Group Handbells	23 Church Office Closed 12/23-1/2	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	26 Rachel Fohne on Vacation 12/26-1/3	27 Church Reserved
28 Christmas Celebration Sunday Small Group Handbells 9:30 AM Youth Christmas Party in Education Building	29	30	31 New Year's Eve 5:30 PM Divine Service	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		