

St. Paul Epistle

The Monthly Newsletter of St. Paul Lutheran Church

January 2026

6045 East State Street

Columbus, Indiana 47201

Phone: 812-376-6504

www.stpaulcolumbus.org

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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

Christmas in the Trenches

His childhood home and church were reduced to rubble in the Thirty Years War

His parents both died before he was 15 years old

He outlived his wife and four of his five children

He buried scores of church members during the plague

He was removed from his pastorate in Berlin for refusing to compromise God's Word

He composed 17 hymns which are included in our hymnal

The memorial plaque above his grave reads: "A theologian sifted in Satan's sieve"

Pastor Paul Gerhardt (1607-1676) endured war and plague, death and sorrow, unemployment and poverty during his life. From these intense trials, Gerhardt composed rich hymn texts that we continue to sing to this day. One of my favorite Gerhardt hymn stanzas is from his Advent hymn *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You*:

Love caused Your incarnation; Love brought You down to me.

Your thirst for my salvation Procured my liberty.

Oh, love beyond all telling, That led You to embrace

In love, all love excelling, Our lost and fallen race. (Hymn 334:4)

Pastor Gerhardt composed three Christmas hymns from the trenches of suffering and sorrow that are included in our hymnal. For our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services, we will focus on each of these three hymns, unpacking their Biblical truths while remembering the man who wrote these hymns amid his countless struggles and trials.

Although Christmas is a season of life and joy, the reality is that every Christmas is celebrated in the trenches of our struggles and sorrows, just like it was for Pastor Gerhardt. There may be empty chairs at your Christmas celebration this year as death has separated you from those you love. There may be health struggles, financial difficulties, family strife, and uncertainty about the future. On this side of glory, Christmas Day and every day is a day lived in the trenches, on the front line of the never-ending battle against the devil, the world, and our own sinful flesh.

But God is faithful! He gave us His greatest gift in His Son born of Mary, who willingly left the glories of heaven and entered this world, choosing to dwell among us in the trenches, experiencing suffering and sorrow just like us, choosing to dwell in the trenches to fight for us and to conquer sin, Satan, death, and the grave. As a result of the baby born in Bethlehem, like Pastor Gerhardt, there is a song of joy and praise in our hearts. This child is our Savior, our Lord, our Immanuel—our God with us—in every trial and sorrow.

I look forward to celebrating Christ's birth with you. Please consider those you can invite to join you for worship and the many special events this sacred season. Our Christmas Eve services will each be preceded by 20 minutes of Christmas carol singing and conclude with candlelight and the singing of *Silent Night*.

Christmas Eve at 5:30 PM—Candlelight Service

Come Your Hearts and Voices Raising (Hymn 375)

Carol singing begins at 5:10 PM

Communion will be offered in the fellowship room following the service

Christmas Eve at 10 PM—Communion and Candlelight Service

O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is (Hymn 372)

Carol singing begins at 9:40 PM

Christmas Day at 10 AM—Festival Communion Service

All My Heart Again Rejoices (Hymn 360)

As we near the end of 2025, I thank God for you, for your faithfulness in worship and service, for your Christ-like care and compassion for your brothers and sisters in Christ, and for your desire to reach out with the saving Gospel. I pray for God's richest blessings upon you in the new year as together we receive, serve, love, and grow together firmly founded on Christ, the Solid Rock!

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

Pastor Bauman



Musical Notes

Christ, our Lord and Savior dear,

Be Thou ever near us.

Grant us now a glad new year.

Amen, Jesus, hear us.

Happy New Year! The final stanza of the Christmas hymn, Let Us All with Gladsome Voice, LSB 390, closes the Christmas season with a prayer for the new year. We pray that 2026 is a good year for all in our families and congregation, and also offer thanks for the blessings we received throughout the past year.

Let's begin the new year by looking at the importance of music within the flow of the liturgy. As we have discussed in the past, everything in the liturgy/Divine Service supports the spoken Word of God. Since all actions exist to serve the Word, none of the actions glorify themselves but rather seek to give back the gifts first given from our Lord. Scriptures, the sermon, hymns, and the sung and spoken parts of the liturgy all join in unified thought and action to create a seamless flow throughout the service. Within this flow exist the two parts of the Divine Service—Service of the Word and Service of the Sacrament. The Service of the Word moves through the Offertory and Prayers and flows into the Service of the Sacrament.

The Hymn of the Day serves as the main hymn and is most closely tied to the sermon text. The hymn sung during the Offertory, or the sung liturgical setting, ties into the Scriptures/sermon text and often summarizes and/or reinforces the theme of the day. Additional hymns are sung at the opening and close of service, as well as during The Lord's Supper. Each of the settings of the Divine Service found in Lutheran Service Book contains specific, congregationally sung responses for the Kyrie, Gloria, Sanctus, Agnus Dei, and Nunc Dimittus. The Alleluia, or Alleluia and verse, may be sung prior to the Gospel; however, the choir may sing an appropriate verse of the day in its' place. Other opportunities for the choir are in alternation during a congregational hymn, in place of a congregational Offertory, or during Distribution. All sung hymns and liturgical responses relate to the theme of the day and "cradle" God's Word as found in the Scriptures and sermon.

Extending Christ's love throughout the New Year,

Dan



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

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

Jr. Choir rehearses on Sunday mornings 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

Added Value

One of the joys I have as an early childhood educator are the gifts of artwork that I receive from the students at our school. Each piece was designed with purpose and echoes the individuality of the child. From time to time, their gifts of art make it into my hands without their attempt to draw their name on their creation.

The artistic renditions are special on their own. The time and strategy for detail are reflected in the final product. I love to display this work on my door or on the wall by my office so that I am reminded of the child's thoughtfulness. This also gives others the opportunity to view it. Simply looking at the artwork satisfies curiosity. Referencing the creator's name adds a point of reference, meaning, and appreciation.

Our pastors and teachers take the time to teach our students the value of God's name. In the Apostles' Creed, God is identified as the Master Creator. He has made us and all things. By learning the 10 Commandments, children learn that God's name is holy. It is set apart to be referenced with respect and love. As we learn the Lord's Prayer, our students discover that they can call on God as their Father. God urges us to use His name in prayer, praise, and when we need His help.

The Apostle Paul in his letter to the Ephesians tells us this, "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." (Ephesians 2:8-10). God created each person to be unique, have purpose, and with love. God calls us by the thoughtfully chosen name given to us by our parents. Above all, God places His name on us. As God's masterpiece, we have immeasurable value.

~Blessings,
Jen Probst, ECM Director

January

- 5** – Classes Resume
- 6** – Church and School Staff Meeting
- 7** – ECM Board at 7:30 PM
- 19** – No School: Martin Luther King, Jr Day
- 25 to 30** – Lutheran Schools Week
- 25** – Students sing at 10:45 AM worship service
- 27** – Lambs Chapel at 8:20 AM
- 28** – Kindergarten and Doves Chapel at 8:20 AM



ECM Registration

It is not too late to be a part of our school family for the 2026-2027 school year! Please go to <https://www.stpaulcolumbus.org/ecmregistration> to begin the process. If you would like a tour of the school or find out more about our early childhood ministry, please call 812-376-6504 or email (director@stpaulcolumbus.org).



Christian Education

Chronology

People are creatures of time. Genesis tells us the origin of time. We can read the amazing account of how God created all things within a 24-hour day and a 7-day week. The sun, moon, and stars also give us a reference for the passing of the seasons.

While the Bible starts with the beginning of time and finishes with eternity, the layout of the books between Genesis and Revelation are not completely chronological. Its layout divides the time before Christ and the time after Jesus was born. The books of the Bible also group books of history, poetry, letters, and prophecy. There are so many ways to line up the incredible information found in Scripture and receive the bountiful gifts God gives through His Word.

The Scriptural reading program listed below follows an analytical and historical understanding of the timing of the accounts found in God's Word. It attempts to establish an order of the Biblical text from the creation of the heavens and the earth to the new Heaven and new Earth. Interestingly, Biblical scholarship places Job's lifetime after Noah and before Abraham. No matter the order, we can be confident that our faith grows each time we read from the Bible. I pray God's richest blessings as you continue or make a beginning of reading God's Word every day and strengthening your foundation in Christ!

Daily January Bible Readings					
1	Genesis 1-3	11	Job 29-31	21	Genesis 27-29
2	Genesis 4-7	12	Job 32-34	22	Genesis 30-31
3	Genesis 8-11	13	Job 35-37	23	Genesis 32-34
4	Job 1-5	14	Job 38-39	24	Genesis 35-37
5	Job 6-9	15	Job 40-42	25	Genesis 38-40
6	Job 10-13	16	Genesis 12-15	26	Genesis 41-42
7	Job 14-16	17	Genesis 16-18	27	Genesis 43-45
8	Job 17-20	18	Genesis 19-21	28	Genesis 46-47
9	Job 21-23	19	Genesis 22-24	29	Genesis 48-50
10	Job 24-28	20	Genesis 25-26	30	Exodus 1-3
				31	Exodus 4-6

Board of Education Meeting: Wednesday, January 14 at 7:00 PM

Sunday School Lessons

- Please note that music class for Early and Upper Elementary will be held in the Sanctuary.

Jan	<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>
4	Jesus's Baptism	The Wise Men	Pharisee/Good Samaritan	Confession
11	Fishers of Men	Flight to Egypt	Triumphal Entry	Confession/Office of the Keys
18	Wedding at Cana	Joseph Reveals Himself	Last Judgement	Office of the Keys
25	Heals & Forgives	12-year-old Jesus	Last Supper/Gethsemane	Words of Institution

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

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

– Developing the Leader Within You – Music Room (Zach Matthews)

Wednesday Adult Bible Studies

Moms in the Word - Jan. 5 at 10:00 AM

9:00 AM – Romans

- Class will NOT meet Dec 24 & 31

6:00 PM – Isaiah

- Classes resume January 7, 2026

Youth Ministry

KfC

*Kids for Christ
youth group for
preschool to 5th
Grade*

Sunday, January 25 beginning at Noon (at the Church)

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 a number of Lutheran schools who have the privilege of teaching the Bible in school. Join us for lunch and special activities that rejoices in God's richest gifts through His word.

C4Life

Christ for Life youth group for 6th to 8th Grade

SPY

St. Paul Youth group for High School students

Fri-Sat, January 2-3 – Aurora Circuit Lock In

4:30 PM to 8:30 AM – Come and join us as we fill the night with fellowship and fun. We leave St. Paul at 4:30 PM on Friday evening. **Please make sure to eat before coming.** We will be driving to St. John's in Aurora. Once we arrive, we will join other youth groups for Bible Study, games, service projects, and tubing. We will return to St. Paul at 8:30 AM on Saturday morning. Here are some additional details for the event:

- Friends are welcome to join.
- Adults are needed to drive.
- Permission forms must be filled out to attend.
- The deadline to sign up is by Sunday, December 14th and paperwork filled out by Sunday, December 21st.

What to bring:

- Gals bring snacks; Guys bring drinks
- Donations of bottled water and snacks (granola bars, cheese crackers, goldfish snacks, etc.) for Pregnancy Care Center of Southeast Indiana
- Clothing for snow tubing (2 hours outdoors)
- Sleeping bag and pillow if you want to sleep

Some Youth Activities listed under C4Life

March for Life

We have a wonderful crew of youth and adults who will be attending the annual March for Life conference in Washington D.C. toward the end of January. Please pray for the travel and experience these participants will have at this powerful event. Also pray for the continued advocacy and support for God's precious gift of life for people of all ages and stages.

Higher Things

(Due – January 25, 2026)

For 8th Grade through Senior High

We are planning a youth trip to St. Louis, Missouri from June 30th to July 3rd. This youth gathering brings together groups from the Midwest on the campus of Washington University. During our time together we will have time to grow in our relationship with God and our relationships with others. Sign-up sheets and permission forms are on the hallway door by the Sunday School classrooms.

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

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

Board of Youth Meeting: Sunday, January 11 at 12:30 PM

Gifts of Time and Talent:

Acolytes			Music	
8:00 AM	10:45 AM		8:00 AM	10:45 AM
Naomi Lewis	Emma Gibson	4	Small Group Handbells	
Kylie Price	Lane Gilmore	11	Sr. Choir	
Henry Siefer	Caroline Glick	18	Sr. Handbells	
Daryn Vogel	Zaylie Gonsior	25	Jr. Choir/Jr. Handbells/Handchimes	ECM Students sing



St. Paul Lutheran Church
& Early Childhood Ministry

News and Notes

Extending Christ's Love Update

Construction has begun! It is exciting to witness the beginning of construction of our Christian Education Center. As weather permits, sitework will continue in preparation for the building's foundation. The steel has been ordered and will be delivered in the coming weeks. **Parking:** During weekday hours of 7 AM-5 PM, please park on the east side (sanctuary side) of the church parking lot, keeping the west side of the lot open for construction equipment and supplies.

Thanks for your generosity! As we near the end of our first full year of our five-year Extending Christ's Love capital campaign, total gifts, contributions, and grants exceed \$3 million! This is 38% of the total amount needed for the construction of the Christian Education Center. We are thankful for all who have pledged and those who have increased their pledges or accelerated fulfillment of their pledges. The more contributions we receive now, the less we will need to finance.

Baking for the Building and the Silent Auction raised more than \$7,000 for Extending Christ's Love. Thanks to all who donated baked goods and auction items and those who participated.

Thanks to those who serve: We are especially thankful for our Building and Finance Committees for their countless hours of service in the past and in the coming months to make this vision a reality.



Midweek Advent Services

The *Advent of Our King* is the theme of our Midweek Advent services **Wednesdays, December 10th and 17th** at 6:45 PM. Join us as we prepare and rejoice in Christ's coming 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 and will be matched dollar-for-dollar.

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.

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.

Christmas Deadlines and Closings

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 on Thursday, December 18th as the entire staff will be serving at our school's Parents Day. 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.

All 2025 contributions must be made online, received by mail, or placed in the offering plate on or before December 31st.

Christmas Season Services

Christmas Eve at 5:30 PM Candlelight Service; Carol sing begins at 5:10 PM; Communion will be offered in the fellowship room following the service

Christmas Eve at 10 PM Candlelight and Communion; Carol sing begins at 9:40 PM

Christmas Day at 10 AM Festival Communion Service

Christmas Celebration Sunday, December 28th at 8 and 10:45 AM

New Year's Eve at 5:30 PM Divine Service

Celebration of Epiphany, January 4th at 8 and 10:45 AM

50th Anniversary Open House

The family of Jeff and Debbie Otte invite you to a 50th anniversary open house on **Saturday, December 27th** from 11 AM-2 PM at the fellowship room. Please RSVP to Joe Otte at 812-603-8371 by Sunday, December 21st.

Installation of Officers

The following officers will be installed at either the 8 or 10:45 AM service on **Sunday, January 4th**: President—Jason Schroer; Vice-President—Phil Burbrink; Secretary—Linda K. Scheidt; Treasurer—Jackie Arnholt; Financial Secretary—Rachel Fohne; Elders—Brian Arnholt, Art Ramsey, Wiley Umphress, and Jeff Schroer; Trustee—Marcus Linke; Evangelism—Kacey Patterson; Education—Sarah Lewis; Youth—April Ann Wofford; Cemetery—Neil Nolting; Stewardship—Hayden Shuffett; Early Childhood Ministry—Andrea Cotton; Council-at-Large—Katie Arnholt, April Hoeltke, and Mark Wint; Trinity Lutheran High School—Henry Wischmeier; White Creek Lutheran School Foundation—Travis Price. Please pray for our officers and leaders.

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

Communion Wafer Making

We are blessed with faithful volunteers who make Communion wafers. You are invited to join us on **Wednesday, January 7th** at 10:45 AM (immediately following Matins) in the church kitchen for our next wafer making day.

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.

National Lutheran Schools Week

National Lutheran Schools Week is **January 25-February 1**. We will join with Lutheran schools throughout the nation around the theme *Let's Make a Joyful Noise*. Our school students will participate in many special activities and events to celebrate our school.

Our Sunday celebration of National Lutheran Schools Week is **Sunday, January 25th**. Our early childhood ministry students will sing at the 10:45 AM service. After the service, our KfC event will include both church and early childhood ministry children and their families. Lunch will be provided for all with activities and events from noon-1:15 PM.

Please continue to pray for our school and our teaching staff. Join us as we celebrate the many opportunities that Lord gives us through our early childhood ministry to extend Christ's love!

Mission of the Month

Our January Mission of the Month is our Helping Hands. Helping Hands serves those from our congregation and community who find themselves in financial need. Helping Hands funds are used to support rent, utilities, and medical expenses. In addition, we maintain a food pantry to provide these necessities.

The number of Helping Hands requests have increased significantly these past months so that the Helping Hands fund is nearly depleted. Our January Mission of the Month will provide additional funds for those in need. If you would like to contribute, please use your "designated offering" envelope and indicate that your gift is for Helping Hands. You may also give online designating your contribution for Helping Hands.

Sunday Lunches

We offer lunches for those participating in afternoon events. The sign-up sheet for January-May is posted in the gathering space. If you are interested in serving, please sign up.

December 14th —Taco Bar

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

January 4th—Lasagna and Garlic Bread

January 11th—Chicken Wraps

January 18th—Meatball Subs

January 25th—Walking Tacos—KfC Day/National Lutheran Schools Week Celebration

Early Childhood Ministry Registration

Registration for the 2026-2027 school year for church member families and families of current students has begun!

We need your help in promoting our Christ-centered, fully accredited early childhood ministry. 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.

St. Paul Lutheran SGO

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 of 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 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 Raised as of November 30, 2025: **\$60,421.36**

Official Acts

Harper Sasse Hums, daughter of Scott and Shalah, was baptized into Christ on November 16th.

Reese Walker Koeberlein, son of Matt and Caleh, was baptized into Christ on November 30th.

Benjamin Jonathan Cline, son of Jon and Allie, was baptized into Christ on December 7th.

Besy Eliette Bassett, daughter of Dustin and Paola, was baptized into Christ on December 7th.

Kenny and Christy DeBord were received by transfer on November 16th.

Jenny Chavez was received by affirmation of faith on November 30th.

Isiah Nay and Reagin Branaman were united in marriage on December 6th.

Dennis Peters entered into glory on December 1st and was given Christian burial on December 9th.

Latino Outreach Report

If you have never attended Las Posadas, make this year the year that you add it your holiday traditions! Join us **Saturday, December 20th** at 5 PM for worship, food, and fun as we remember Joseph and Mary's search for an inn/posada in Bethlehem. If you can't bring a friend or dish, at least just bring yourself!

During the season of Advent we've discussed the importance of family/individual devotions during the week. At the end of September each household assembled an Advent wreath as a physical reminder of the need to be in God's Word as we await our Lord's return. On the first Sunday of Advent it was a delight to rehearse with the heads of households guiding their families in daily devotions using a resource prepared by brother Lutheran pastors of Latin America. Please let me know if you'd appreciate a print or electronic copy.

—Pastor Fickenscher



LWML News

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 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.

The next **Euchre Tourney and Family Game Night** will be Friday, February 6, at 6 PM in the fellowship hall. This will be the first of four game nights in 2026, so mark your calendars now. Remember, games other than euchre are always available. Tentative first-Friday game nights for 2026 also include May 1, August 7, and November 6, but those dates may be subject to change.

You are invited to the **Columbus Zone Spring Gathering** on Saturday, April 11, 2026 at St. John's Lutheran Church, White Creek. Registration and breakfast will begin at 9 AM, with a program to follow and a luncheon to close the gathering. Watch for details in the new year.

There are just seven months until the **Indiana District Convention** June 26-28, 2026, at the Vanderburgh 4H Center in Evansville, Indiana. The theme is "Be Still and Know" based on Psalm 46:10. Kristen Schultz Pratt is slated to be a motivational speaker, while Rev. Gary Liu, missionary to the Chinese, is the mission speaker. Check the *Good News* at <https://lwmlindiana.org/> for more information and registration updates.





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
12:15 PM Confirmation
12:15 PM Spanish Bible Study
12:15 PM Choristers (no practice 1/25)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	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		<u>Wednesday Schedule</u> 9 AM Bible Study 10:15 AM Matins 6 PM Bible Study 6 PM Sr. Handbells 7 PM Sr. Choir	1 New Year's Day	2	3
				No School —Church Office Closed	Youth Lock-in at Aurora	
4 Celebration of Epiphany Mite Box Sunday Small Group Handbells Installation of Officers at Both Services	5 10 AM Homeschool Religion Class 10 AM Moms in the Word 10 AM Small Group Handbells	6 Epiphany Day 12:15 PM Staff Meeting	7 10:45 AM Communion Wafer Making 7:15 PM Elder Meeting 7:30 PM ECM Board Meeting	8 6 PM Tri-W Meeting	9 5-9 PM Church Re-served	10 9 AM LWML Annual Meeting
11 Baptism of our Lord Sr. Choir 12:30 PM Board of Youth Meeting	12 February Newsletter Deadline 9:30 AM Homeschool Religion Class 10 AM Small Group Handbells	13 5:30-9 PM Church Reserved	14 7 PM Education Board Meeting	15	16	17
18 Sr. Handbells	19 No School 10 AM Small Group Handbells 5:30 PM Girl Scouts 6 PM FinanceCommittee Meeting 7 PM Council Meeting	20	21	22	23	24
					Y4Life Washington DC	
25 NLSW Celebration Jr. Choir/Jr. Handbells and Handchimes 10:45 AM ECM Students sing Noon-1:15 PM KfC Event	26 9:30 AM Homeschool Religion Class 10 AM Small Group Handbells	27 8:20 AM Lambs Chapel	28 8:20 AM Doves and Kindergarten Chapel	29 1:30 PM Hickory Creek Visit	30	31
					Pastor Bauman on Vacation	

Serving at St. Paul

Service	Usher Team	Elders	Greeters
8 AM	Team A	Jim Brock & Brian Arnholt	
10:45 AM	Team E	Eric Scheidt & Jeff Schroer	

Day	Acolyte	Flowers	Radio	Fellowship Hour	Lunch
4	8 AM Naomi Lewis				Fischer Family
	10:45 AM Emma Gibson				
11	8 AM Kylie Price				Laws Family
	10:45 AM Lane Gilmore				
18	8 AM Henry Siefer				Jackie Arnholt
	10:45 AM Caroline Glick				
25	8 AM Daryn Vogel		Jim and Nora Cleary		Katie Arnholt
	10:45 AM Zaylie Gonisor				