



The Messenger

The Nativity of Our Lord ~ December 25, 2022

Worship Schedule:

Sunday, December 25, 10:00 am
The Nativity of Our Lord

Sunday, January 1, 9:30 am
Circumcision and Name of Jesus

Friday, January 6, 7:00 pm
Epiphany Divine Service

Bible Study Opportunities

Early Bible Study—Sunday 8:30 a.m.

Bible Class will resume on Sunday, January 8.

Join Dr. Nordling as he teaches on “Vocation in the New Testament: Wives, Husbands, Children, Slaves”. Meet in the Nerger Room.

Sunday School & Youth Bible Study—10:45 a.m.

Sunday School will resume on Sunday, January 8.

Adult Bible Class: Grace Under Stress -10:45 a.m.

Bible Class will resume on Sunday January 8.

Join Pastor Hoem as he continues his class, *Grace Under Stress*. Meet in the Nerger Room immediately following the Divine Service.

Adult Instruction Class—Sunday 10:45 a.m.

Adult Instruction resumes on Sunday, January 8.

Pastor Cage continues this class on the chief teachings of the Christian Faith from the Holy Scriptures as presented in the Small Catechism of Martin Luther, then prayed each week in the liturgy. Meet in the Founders Room.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Robinson leads our morning Bible study on the Psalms. Wednesdays at 7 am, at the Indiana District Office.

Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study

Class resumes on January 4. Meet in the Nerger Room at 2:00 p.m. as Pastor Cage leads the study on “Joseph in Genesis”.

Our Giving For December 18

Budget Envelopes	\$23,393.42
CLHS	\$40.00
Missions/Lutheran Heritage	\$29.73
Plate Offerings	\$276.00
Seasonal Envelopes	\$1,085.00
School Income	\$641.68
Total Income	\$25,465.83
Livestream Donation	\$48.21
PEF/School Endowment	\$48.49
PEF/Student Assistance	\$48.49
Gathering In Christ	\$67,064.57
Total of all Donations	\$92,675.59

Attendance For Last Week

Sunday, December 18 ~ 9:30 am	252
Christmas Eve ~ 6:00pm Children’s Service	N/A
Christmas Eve ~ 11:00 pm Lessons & Carols	N/A

Serving This Week and Next

Sunday, December 25 ~

Altar Guild: *Jan Leffel and Mark Swearingen*

Elder: *Craig Behnfeldt*

Ushers: *Dave Geller, Matt Geller, David Kruse, Dan Kramer, Dean Trainer, Russ Harges, Jack Hall, Sam Lind*

Sunday, January 1~

Altar Guild: *Bonnie Doerffler and Barb Doerffler*

Elder: *Tim Mannigel*

Ushers: *Dave Evans, Dan Ernst, Ethan Ernst, John Mader, Cindy Irie, Davis Dean, Tyler Germann, Adrianna Germann, Austin Germann*

Altar & Chancel Flowers

The Altar and Chancel flowers have been given to the glory of God by the Harmeyer Family and Susan Balsamo-Furniss, in memory of Peter Balsamo, Irene and James Harmeyer, Michael Harmeyer, and Denise King.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

“Unboxed” - Youth Retreat

St. Paul's will be hosting a Higher Things Youth Retreat on January 6-7, for 9th-12th grade students. Learn how your Lutheran faith applies to your life and relationships, have fun, worship, eat good food, and get to know youth from the area. Details and registration materials are available at <https://higherthings.org/events/retreats/>

Epiphany Divine Service

Join us on Friday, January 6, at 7pm for our Epiphany Divine Service. The Higher Things Youth Retreat attendees will be joining us.

Church Office Closed

The church office will be closed on Monday, December 26 and January 2, in observance of the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

Support the JV Basketball Tournament

Planning is underway for the annual J. Neil Reincke JV Boys Basketball Tournament at St. Paul's on January 13-15, 2023. This is our Athletic Boosters' biggest fundraiser and directly impacts the athletic program at St. Paul's. It's a wonderful opportunity for our student athletes to compete and share in Christian fellowship with area Lutheran schools. We are currently looking for sponsors for the event, as well as donations and volunteers to help make this a successful tournament. If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about sponsorship opportunities or donation needs, or if you are able to volunteer some time helping with the gate or concessions, please contact Andy Whirrett, Athletic Director at amwhirrett@gmail.com or Melissa Hawk, Athletic Boosters, at mhawk75@live.com for more information. Sponsorship forms will also be available at the school office. Thank you for your continued support of St. Paul's Lutheran School!

Order Altar/Chancel Flowers for 2023

Flowers are available for ordering on Jan. 8, most of February and throughout 2023. Please sign up on the date of your choice in honor of an occasion or in memory of a loved one. Instructions for ordering are on the Altar Guild book located on the counter in the hallway near the elevator. If you have questions, please call Lynn Wehrenberg at 260-755-8532.

Kindergarten Opening - Fall 2023

Congratulations to Mrs. Sue German, who has announced her retirement from full-time teaching. We are thankful for her 25 years of dedication to the students of St. Paul's. Sue has left a tremendous legacy of teaching our students the love of Jesus Christ and she will be greatly missed by our students and staff. Looking ahead, St. Paul's Call Committee (St. Paul's Board of Elementary Education) is seeking qualified licensed teacher candidates for consideration through April 2, 2023. Any interested candidate should submit his/her resume to Rev. Jason Zoske at jzoske@stpaulsfw.org. If you would like to refer a candidate for consideration, send the candidate's name (and any available contact information) to the same email above or contact the school office at 260-424-0049.

Reminder for Offering Envelopes

In years past, you were able to pick up your envelopes in the main hallway leading into the church. In January of 2023, your offering envelopes will be mailed to you directly, unless you have enrolled in electronic giving. The envelopes will be mailed to you in a packet every two months. If you are enrolled in electronic giving but you would still like to receive envelopes, you will need to call the church office at 260-423-2496 and let us know.

Offering Envelopes & “Initial” Envelope

The “Initial” offering envelope, the very first one of your 2023 envelopes, is used to defray the expense of purchasing the envelopes. The annual cost for each set is \$5.40, which includes the mailing cost for each packet.

Issues, Etc.

A radio-talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio that provides excellent Christian radio programming can be found at issuesetc.org.

December 25– The Nativity of Our Lord

The Lord bared His holy arm (Isaiah 52:10) not just by appearing in the form of a full-grown man. The Word became flesh (John 1:14) first as an embryo and a fetus. The clearest revelation of God's glory (Hebrews 1:2-3) also designates every human life precious, no matter what age, appearance, or ability. We can no more keep quiet about the sanctity of life than we can leave out Christmas or Jesus from the Gospel!

December 2022

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1	2 6-9PM—City of Churches Tour	3
4 8:30am - Bible Study Church Library 9:30am - Divine Service 10:45am - SCRIP Sales 10:45am - Bible Study & Sunday School	5 3pm—Youth Handbell Choir in Nerger Room 4pm—Adult Handbell Choir in Nerger Room	6	7 7am - Bible Study IN District Office 8:45am - School Chapel 9-10am - SCRIP Sales 2pm - Bible Study 5:30pm - Advent Supper 6:30pm - Advent Service 7:30pm - Choir Practice	8 5:30pm - Elders Mtg 6pm - Council Mtg	9	10
11 8:30am - Bible Study Nerger Rm 9:30am - Divine Service 10:45am - SCRIP Sales 10:45am - VOTERS' MTG & Sunday School No Bible Class at 10:45	12 3pm—Youth Handbell Choir in Nerger Room 4pm—Adult Handbell Choir in Nerger Room	13	14 7am - Bible Study IN District Office 8:45am - School Chapel 9-10am - SCRIP Sales 2pm - Bible Study 5:30pm - Advent Supper 6:30pm - Advent Service 7:30pm - Choir Practice	15 6pm—BOEE	16	17
18 8:30am - Bible Study Nerger Rm 9:30am - Divine Service 10:45am - SCRIP Sales 10:45am - Bible Study & Sunday School Party	19 NO SCHOOL— Christmas Break	20 NO SCHOOL— Christmas Break	21 <u>St. Thomas, Apostle</u> NO SCHOOL— Christmas Break 7am - Bible Study IN District Office NO CHAPEL 9-10am - SCRIP Sales NO DIVINE SERVICE 7:30pm - Choir Practice	22 NO SCHOOL— Christmas Break	23 NO SCHOOL— Christmas Break	24 6pm—Children's Christmas Eve Service 11pm—Service of Lessons and Carols
25 <u>Christmas Day</u> 10:00am - Divine Service No BIBLE CLASS OR SUNDAY SCHOOL	26 <u>St. Stephen, Martyr</u> NO SCHOOL— Christmas Break Church Office—CLOSED	27 <u>St. John Apostle & Evangelist</u> NO SCHOOL— Christmas Break	28 <u>The Holy Innocents</u> NO SCHOOL— Christmas Break 7am - Bible Study IN District Office NO CHAPEL 9-10am - SCRIP Sales NO DIVINE SERVICE	29 NO SCHOOL— Christmas Break	30 NO SCHOOL— Christmas Break	31 <u>Eve of the Circumcision & Name of Jesus</u> No New Year's Eve Srvc Join us on January 1 at 9:30 a.m. for the Divine Service!

PRAY

without ceasing

1 THESSALONIANS 5:17

St. Paul's Students and Their Families:

† Anna, Bennett, Caleb, Gabriel, Abigail, Amelia

Comfort, Health, and Recovery:

† Sullivan Baskerville

† Douglas Fisher

† Rev. John Hamer

† Ruth Helmreich

† Bob Heniser

† Thomas Hoem

† Jim and Suzi Reinking

† Ralph Zander

Ongoing Chronic Concerns:

† Chris Barnekov

† Harris Beck

† Ann Crippin

† Davis Dean

† Doug Doehrmann

† Carolyn Falkenstern

† Steve Hackman

† Amy Hamer

† Dennis Harmeyer

† Lonni Helmchen

† John Huitt

† Juanita Jefferson

† Karen Johnson

† Dennis Jordan

† Jodi Kreiger

† Linda Leimer

† Sandy Macon

† Rev. Warren & Joan Messmann

† Larry & Louela Murphy

† Barbara Nelson

† Stephen Pollock

† Ron Rastl

† Janice Schmidt

† Andrew Scholes

† Wanda Schweyer

† Fred Scott

† Michelle Scott

† Rev. Ralph Sielaff

† Sam Suarez

† Gladys Teekaram

† Tom & Joan West

† Ron & Sharon Williams

Our Homebound Members:

† Neva Aldridge

† Joan Badders

† Marilyn Berning

† Myra Carrier

† Mary Ann Cordes

† Buzz Doerffler

† Betty Elliott

† Phoebe Fett

† Rodney Hall

† Ruth Herb

† Leah Maier

† Beverly Maxfield

† Lois Meyer

† Ernestine Morrison

† Esther Pinnow

† Leona Puff

† Carolyn Reincke

† Judith Rekeweg

† Walter Schroeder

† Dorothy Taylor

† Eileen Weber

† Mary Weick

† Anna Witte

Serving in the Armed Forces:

† Abigail Dunno

† KiVuan Edwards

† Cierra Germann

† Brian Hamer

† Zachary Harmeyer

† Jarrell Harris

† Jasmine Jackson

† Austin Kerr

† Courtney Linnemeier

† Sharia Macon

† Jamara Moore

† Brandon Screeton

† John Sheaffer Jr.

† Ryan Sheaffer

† Brandon Skalicky

* Pray for these saints throughout the week.

Please submit prayer requests by calling the church office at 260.423.2496 ext. 310