



# The Messenger

The Purification of Mary & Presentation of Our Lord ~ February 2, 2025

St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School

1126 S. Barr Street, Fort Wayne, IN 260-423-2496

www.stpaulsfw.org

## Bible Study Opportunities

### Sunday Morning Bible Study—10:45 a.m.

Join us for Bible class, coffee, donuts, and fellowship immediately following the Divine Service. Pastor Hoem will lead us on how God's Holy Word brings order as we orbit our life around Jesus. Meet in the school cafeteria. Please use the entrance at the playground where there is access to the elevator.

### Sunday School—Sundays at 10:45 a.m.

Parents bring your children to the school cafeteria for refreshments and to meet your teachers for class. Sunday School and Bible study will end at 11:30 a.m.

### Women's Bible Study—Monday at 6:30 p.m.

Please join Pastor and Kristin Hoem at their house on February 3. We will explore the story of Satan's temptation of mankind and the consequences of our rebellion against God. If you have time, consider reading Genesis 3-4. If you have not attended before, we welcome you to join us. This is a great opportunity for fellowship with other ladies while studying God's Holy Word. Call the church office for directions and more details.

### Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study—2:00 p.m.

Join us for midweek Bible Study with the "Life of David" (continuing on II Samuel) and the line that God draws to David's "greater Son" and LORD, Jesus the Christ. Meet on the first floor of the Indiana District Office, Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m. with Pastor Cage.

### Thursday Morning Men's Bible Study—7:00 a.m.

Men, start your day in God's Word as we prepare for the upcoming Sunday Divine Service. Meet with Pastor Cage on the first floor of the Indiana District Office.

### Thursday Morning Bible Study—9:00 a.m.

Dr. Geoffrey Robinson teaches on Psalms at the District Office (1145 Barr Street).

## **Worship Schedule:**

Sunday, February 2, 9:30 a.m. Divine Service  
*Purification of Mary & Presentation of Our Lord*

Wednesday, February 5, 8:45 a.m. Matins

## **TODAY IN THE DIVINE SERVICE**

*We welcome Naomi Ann Whirrett, daughter of Joey and Jami Whirrett, to the waters of Holy Baptism. Her sponsors are Anthony and Kala Moore. We give thanks to our merciful Lord that He continues to bless His church on earth.*

### Our Giving For January 26

Budget Envelopes	\$15,416.82
Missions/Lutheran Heritage	\$34.73
Plate Offerings	\$270.50
School Income	\$4,180.46
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$19,902.51</b>
Gathering In Christ	\$772.73
<b>Total of All Donations</b>	<b>\$20,675.24</b>

### Attendance Last Week

**Sunday, January 26 ~ 9:30 a.m.** 377

### Serving This Week and Next

**Sunday, February 2 ~**

**Altar Guild:** *Margo Ernst and Raquel Geller*

**Elder:** *Tim Mannigel*

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

**Sunday, February 9 ~**

**Altar Guild:** *Barb Doerffler and Diane Lewis*

**Elder:** *Michael Mabee and Sam Lind*

**Ushers:** *Craig Linnemeier, Tony Lardyell, Dale Doerffler, Dean Doerffler, Kurt Gutman, Dave Hawk, Mike Hawk, Tim Hawk*

**Announcements For Consideration Are Due By Wednesday at Noon**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

### Year End Statements Have Been Mailed

The 2024 contribution statements were mailed on Friday, January 31. If you have not already received your statement, please watch for it to arrive soon. Please note the church office has experienced very serious hardware and software issues during the last few months. These issues required that a portion of data be re-entered in a limited amount of time. If you notice any issues with your contribution statement, please kindly contact Margo Ernst at 260-423-2496, extension 313.

### St. Paul's Choir on Worship Anew

Our Choristers will be featured on February 2nd. Performances will be broadcast on Sundays at 7:00 a.m. on EPTA 21.2 (NBC). Or, access all their performances anytime by going to the archives on the Worship Anew website at <https://worshipanew.org/>.

### Can't Make The Annual School Auction?

Pay \$25 to bid from wherever you are! Online bidding is open February 8 from 5-8:30 p.m. Email Kristen Whirrett at [kwhirrett@stpaulsfw.org](mailto:kwhirrett@stpaulsfw.org) to sign up by Wednesday, February 5. Thank you for your ongoing support for our school, and we hope to see you at the auction!

### Calling All Youth

Join us for the St. Paul's Youth Group Info and Game Night! Help us decide on events for the Youth Group, eat pizza, play games and hang out. Meet on Sunday, February 16, from 5-7 p.m. in the school cafeteria.

### Quarterly Voters Assembly February 16

Meet in the sanctuary after the Divine Service for our regularly scheduled quarterly voters meeting.

### Annual Fish & Tenderloin Fry & Bake Sale!

Saturday, March 15 from 4-7 p.m. Tickets are \$17 for carryout, \$15 for adults, \$8 for Big Kids (ages 4-11), and free for ages 3 and under. Tickets will be on sale beginning Sunday, February 16, 2025. They will be available in the school office, in the church Narthex on Sundays, before and after the Divine Service, and by email to [bmezger@stpaulsfw.org](mailto:bmezger@stpaulsfw.org). **Tickets are pre-sale only, so don't wait to buy!** Proceeds from this year's event will support our students and families. Volunteers are needed and the sign-up will also be available on Sunday, February 16th. Bake sale items will be needed for this tasty event too! You may contact Mrs. Hall in the school office by email at [khall@stpaulsfw.org](mailto:khall@stpaulsfw.org), or call 260-424-0049. If you are a Thrivent member, we can use Thrivent Action Grants for this event. Contact Mrs. Hall or Mr. Mezger about how to apply for one of these grants.

### Teacher Openings for 2025-2026

St. Paul's Lutheran School is now accepting teacher candidates for the 2025-2026 school year. We are looking for 4th and 6th grade homeroom and English/Literature teachers. Interested candidates may contact Andy Whirrett at [awhirrett@stpaulsfw.org](mailto:awhirrett@stpaulsfw.org).

### Organ Recital

Kantor Hildebrand's next recital for his doctoral program is Sunday, February 9 at 3:00 p.m. at Sursa Hall on the campus of Ball State University in Muncie. Repertoire includes a prelude and fugue by Bach, a setting of the Te Deum chant by French composer Jeanne DeMessieux, and a massive version of "A Mighty Fortress" by Max Reger that musically portrays all four stanzas of the hymn.

### Lutheran Lenten Devotional

Looking for a solidly Lutheran Lenten devotional for 2025? In *O Perfect Life of Love*, author Rev. Brian J. Hamer places the forty movements of the St. John Passion as a literary and musical stencil over the forty weekdays of Lent to create a daily listening lectionary. Both the German and English texts are provided to aid in listening, followed by a devotional meditation in which Hamer offers historical, musical, and theological commentary. This careful and deliberate approach to Bach's masterwork will edify your Lenten piety as you behold the life-giving cross, on which was hung the salvation of the world. *O Perfect Life of Love* is available at [EmmanuelPress.US](http://EmmanuelPress.US) and on Amazon.

### For Your Protection

Just a reminder that as you pass through to use the restrooms, please do not enter the construction area. Heritage Hall is still an active construction zone, even on Sundays. For insurance and liability purposes, our agreement with CME Construction is that we will not trespass into the construction area. We don't want the project to be delayed because something got broken or someone got injured, so please do not go into the blocked off areas. Thank you for your cooperation!

### February 2 – The Purification of Mary & Presentation of Our Lord

Ever since sinfulness first afflicted creation, labor and delivery sheds a mother's blood. The Law of the Lord laments that this echo and threat of death operates right where human life emerges from. So He intervenes with atonement to preserve that precious life. And Jesus embodies this opposition to abortion from the very beginning (Luke 2:22-24).

### **Siberian Lutheran Mission Society**

Thank you to everyone who generously gave to the Siberian Lutheran Mission Society special offering. The goal is still to raise \$120,000 to help support Pastoral care, operational needs, and a *Save the Seminary* fund to keep the seminary operating for generations to come. To maximize our efforts, an anonymous member of this congregation has offered to match our gifts up to \$10,000. Envelopes are available in the back of church and can be put into the offering plate. **Please make checks payable to: Siberian Lutheran Mission Society**. Please see Dr. Tim Quill for additional details.

### **California Fire Relief**

Orphan Grain Train has been selected to receive matching funds (\$1 for every \$2 donated) from Thrivent to bring relief to the people suffering from the California wildfires. To take advantage of this match, go to ogt.com and click on the orange banner that says "Thrivent Match for CA Wildfires Relief Efforts." Up to \$1,000,000 will be matched.

### **Wildfire Relief through LCMS World Relief**

To give, visit [lcms.org/givenow/disaster](http://lcms.org/givenow/disaster). You can also text "LCMSDISASTERS" to 41444, or call the LCMS toll-free gift line between 8 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. central time at 888-930-4438. Another option is to mail checks payable to: "The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod" (or "LCMS"). On the memo line, write "Disaster Response" and mail to: LCMS, P.O. Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861.

### **The Lutheran Schools Partnership Event**

Protect Young Eyes, a free event for parents and caregivers on Thursday, February 13 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. at Concordia Lutheran High School in the auditorium. *No Filter: Creating a Tech-Ready Home in a Fast-Paced Digital World*. Attend and learn the practical steps any family can take to prepare and protect themselves online.

### **NE Indiana Right to Life—40 Days for Life**

March 5th (Ash Wednesday) through April 13th (Palm Sunday). If anyone would like to sign up to pray at specific locations, or for more details about this event, please go to [ichooselife.org](http://ichooselife.org).

### **Order Altar/Chancel Flowers**

The order book, located on the glass case in the narthex, has the following dates available to reserve flowers: February 23, March 2, 23, 30, and throughout 2025. Reserve a specific date in honor or in memory of a special person or event. Payment of \$40.00 is due when you reserve a date. Please make your check out to St. Paul's Altar Guild and include the date that you reserved on your check. You may put your payment in the offering plate or mail it to the church at 1126 S. Barr St. **Please mark your envelope specifically for Altar Guild Flowers.** Pick up your flowers after the service or they will be delivered to our shut-ins. Thank you!

# February 2025

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

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<p><b>2</b> <u>The Purification of Mary &amp; Presentation of Our Lord</u>            9:30am - Divine Service            10:45am - SCRIP Sales            10:45am - Bible Study &amp; Sunday School</p>	<p><b>3</b>            6:30pm - Women's Bible Study</p>	<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>5</b>            8:45am - School Chapel            2pm - Bible Study—IN District Office            7:00pm - Choir Practice School Music Room</p>	<p><b>6</b>            7am - Men's Bible Study—District Office            9am - Bible Study—District Office</p>	<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>8</b>            5:00pm—St. Paul's School Auction—Baker Street Train Station</p>
<p><b>9</b>            9:30am - Divine Service            10:45am - SCRIP Sales            10:45am - Bible Study &amp; Sunday School</p>	<p><b>10</b>            6:30pm - Women's Bible Study</p>	<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>12</b>            8:45am - School Chapel            2pm - Bible Study—IN District Office            7:00pm - Choir Practice School Music Room</p>	<p><b>13</b>            7am - Men's Bible Study—District Office            9am - Bible Study—District Office            5:30pm - Elders Mtg            7pm - Church Council</p>	<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>15</b></p>
<p><b>16</b>            9:30am - Divine Service            10:45am - SCRIP Sales            10:45am - Voters Meeting &amp; Sunday School            5-7pm - Youth Group Meeting in Cafeteria</p>	<p><b>17</b>            6:30pm - Women's Bible Study</p>	<p><b>18</b></p>	<p><b>19</b>            8:45am - School Chapel            2pm - Bible Study—IN District Office            7:00pm - Choir Practice School Music Room</p>	<p><b>20</b>            7am - Men's Bible Study—District Office            9am - Bible Study—District Office            6pm—BOEE Meeting</p>	<p><b>21</b></p>	<p><b>22</b></p>
<p><b>23</b>            9:30am - Divine Service            10:45am - SCRIP Sales            10:45am - Bible Study &amp; Sunday School</p>	<p><b>24</b> <u>St. Mathias, Apostle</u>            6:30pm - Women's Bible Study</p>	<p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>26</b>            8:45am - School Chapel            2pm - Bible Study—IN District Office            7:00pm - Choir Practice School Music Room</p>	<p><b>27</b>            7am - Men's Bible Study—District Office            9am - Bible Study—District Office</p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	

# PRAY

*without ceasing*

1 THESSALONIANS 5:17

## St. Paul's Students, Staff, and Families:

† Jack, Melanie, Lilith, Otto, Ruth von der Lage, and Scott Engler

## Gathering In Christ:

† God's continued blessing of our "Gathering In Christ" building project.

## Baptismal Life:

† For Naomi Ann Whirrett, daughter of Joey and Jami Whirrett, baptized during the Divine Service.

## Ongoing Chronic Concerns:

† John Furniss & Susan Balsamo-Furniss

† Harris Beck

† Jeff Carrier

† Roger Couch

† Nathan Davis

† Bob Demaree

† Nick Demaree

† Joanne Engstrom

† Carolyn Falkenstern

† Chris Gill

† Gloria Hamer

† Dennis Harmeyer

† Terry Harmeyer

† Mary Hathaway

† Judy Helmchen

† Jerry Huitt

† John Huitt

† Roy Huitt

† Ruth Huitt

† Juanita Jefferson

† Karen Johnson

† Pam Johnson

† Dennis and Jane Jordan

† Kelly Kochensparger

† Jodi Kreiger

† Lorene Langsdale

† Diane Lewis

† Gail Ludvigson

† Sandy Macon

† John Mader

† James Maier

† Leah Maier

† Eleanor Marine

† Joan Messmann

† Peter Meyer

† Mary Mundt

† Mark Nelson

† ...and those who care for them.

## Comfort, Health, and Recovery:

† Maynard Albers (cousin of John Huitt)

† Kiel Barnekov (half brother of Chris Barnekov)

† Davis Dean

† Lonni Helmchen

† Friedrich Hofmann

† Jim Nash

† Ron Rastl

† Mike Snider (son-in-law of Marilyn Schultz)

## Our Homebound Members:

† Neva Aldridge

† Joan Badders

† Myra Carrier

† Mary Ann Cordes

† Jane Doehrmann

† Rodney Hall

† Jan Leffel

† Lois Meyer

† Ernestine Morrison

† Larry Murphy

† Esther Pinnow

† Leona Puff

† Carolyn Reincke

† Susan Schamberg

† Walter Schroeder

† Rev. Ralph Seilaff

† Dorothy Taylor

† Mary Weick

† Sharon Williams

## Serving in the Armed Forces

† KiVuan Edwards

† Cierra Germann

† Rev. Brian Hamer

† Zachary Harmeyer

† Jasmine Jackson

† Austin Kerr

† Courtney Linnemeier

† Sharia Macon

† Jamara Moore-Chambers

† Rev. Joshua Schiff

† Alexander 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