



The Messenger

Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany ~ February 23, 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 through the Psalms as we look at meditation and how it helps us 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 24. We will look at Genesis chapters 4 and 6 and discuss the story of Cain and Abel. We will also start looking at Noah and the flood. Please consider reading Genesis 4-6. It's not too late to start joining us. What 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 23, 9:30 a.m. Divine Service
Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

Wednesday, February 26, 8:45 a.m. ~ *Matins*

Our Giving For February 16

Budget Envelopes	\$15,728.44
Missions/Lutheran Heritage	\$39.73
Plate Offerings	\$206.65
School Income	\$870.12
Total Income	\$16,844.94
Gathering In Christ	\$2,715.66
Total of All Donations	\$19,560.60

Attendance Last Week

Sunday, February 16 ~ 9:30 a.m. 197

Serving This Week and Next

Sunday, February 23 ~

Altar Guild: *Sally Rish and Diana Hunter*

Elder: *Jon Keck*

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

Sunday, March 2 ~

Altar Guild: *Sally Rish and Barb Doerffler*

Elder: *Trent Towne*

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

Announcements For Consideration Are Due By Wednesday at Noon

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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 are on sale now and 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.

Tickets are pre-sale only, so don't wait to buy!

The last day to purchase tickets is March 9.

Proceeds from this year's event will support our students and families. Volunteers are needed and the sign-up will also be available on Sundays. 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, 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.

YAMS Group—Soup Swap

Sunday, March 2 from 11:30 a.m. –2:00 p.m. join us for food and fellowship in the school cafeteria after the service. Bring a soup to share and get to know other young adults at St. Paul's! Bowls, spoons, and drinks will be provided. Soups can be dropped off at the school cafeteria prior to the 9:30 a.m. service.

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!

New Prayer Request Procedure

Like Jesus, we want to lift those up who need our prayers. Because we don't know people who are not members we will list them under Comfort, Health, and Recovery for two weeks, and under Ongoing Chronic Concerns for four weeks. After six weeks all non-members will be removed from the prayers unless you call back and speak with the pastors so they know the health status of your loved one.

Purdue Varsity Glee Club Performance

One of St. Paul's own, a life-long church member, and graduate of CLHS, Caleb Goodwin, will be singing as a senior member with the Purdue Varsity Glee Club on Saturday, March 8 at 6:30 p.m. at The Pearl Arts Center. Tickets are free, but tickets are still needed to enter. Please see the flyer attached to the Flocknote and scan the QR code for more details and to reserve tickets.

St. Paul's School Auction

Thank you to everyone who came out on a cold and snowy night to support our students and teachers at the St. Paul's Auction. Our attendance was great and we raised \$71,015 after all expenses including the Lutheran Foundation matching grant. Also, a huge thank you to our auction committee of Kristen Whirrett, Megan Koenemann, Andrea Machermer, and Jamie Roberts.

Seeking Food Service Director

St. Paul's Lutheran School is seeking a full-time Food Service Director for the 2025-2026 school year. An ideal candidate will have 5 years experience or a Bachelor's Degree. Interested candidates may contact Principal Andy Whirrett at awhirrett@stpaulsfw.org or 260-424-0049.

Higher Things Youth Conference

St. Paul's Youth (8th grade through high school) are invited to attend the "*All Things New*" Higher Things Youth Conference (worship, Bible study, and fun) at Calvin University in Grand Rapids, MI. The conference runs from Tuesday, July 29 through Friday, August 1, 2025. The cost is \$590 (\$150 due at registration/remainder due April 30). The deadline for you to say "Yes!" and return your registration form is March 9. Please contact Pastor Cage in the church office (260-423-2496, ext. 316) if you would like to attend.

Shepherd of the City Hymn Fest

Shepherd of the City Lutheran Church will be holding their 18th Annual Hymn Fest on Sunday, February 23 at 4:00 p.m. in their sanctuary at 1301 S. Anthony Blvd. This year's hymn fest coincides with the 55th anniversary of their congregation.

February 23– Epiphany 7

Joseph's brothers aborted him well after his birth because they thought him a threat. History eventually disclosed the Heavenly Father's design: a life-giving mission they didn't see (Genesis 45:7-8). The same holds true in the surprise pregnancies and terminal diagnoses we encounter. So Christians practice servanthood to apparently burdensome persons (Luke 6:29), because like mercy from God makes our lives possible.

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 and on Amazon.

CTSFW Kantorei Tour

The CTSFW Kantorei, under the direction of Kantor Kevin Hildebrand, will be traveling to California for their 2025 spring tour in March, with eight stops throughout the state. The ninth and final tour stop is a special Evening Prayer service in Kramer Chapel on the CTSFW campus on March 23, at 4:00 p.m. This service will also be livestreamed if you are unable to attend. The Rev. Dr. Todd Peperkorn, Assistant Professor of Pastoral Ministry and Mission and Director of Vicarage and Internship, will serve as preacher on the tour. Associate Kantor Matthew Machemer will serve as organist. The Kantorei represents the Seminary on tours and sings for daily chapel services, seasonal Choral Vespers, and other events. The choir has also recorded several CDs of sacred music, which are heard regularly on Lutheran Public Radio, and recordings are streaming on Apple Music and Spotify.

Evangelism Conference 2025

You are invited to join the *Reformation Revisited: Modern Evangelism, Historical Tools* Evangelism Conference hosted by the IN District on Saturday, March 8, 2025 at Epiphany Lutheran Church in Westfield, IN. Check-in begins at 8:45 a.m., and the conference will end at 4:15 p.m. Attend to learn how historical tools from the Reformation are being used today to share the Good News of Jesus Christ! The keynote speaker is Rev. Dr. Jon Bruss—President of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne. For more information and to register, please go to: <https://indianadistrictlcms.regfox.com/reformation-revisited-evangelism-conference>.

Kramer Park Real Estate Auction

Scheerer McCulloch Auctioneers will be holding an auction for Kramer Park. They will be auctioning off personal property items on Saturday, March 22. Please refer to their website for more auction details: www.scheerermcculloch.com.

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.

Update: Siberian Lutheran Mission Society

As of Sunday, February 2, St. Paul's has raised \$3,160 for the Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church and Seminary. We still need \$6,840 to reach our \$10,000 goal. However, with the matching gift from an anonymous donor our actual current total is \$6,320. The overall goal among many congregations and individuals in Fort Wayne and surrounding areas working together is \$120,000. St. Paul's is endeavoring to raise \$10,000 toward the \$120,000. What is even more heartening is that if St. Paul's reaches \$10,000, the actual mission offering will be \$20,000. Bless we the Lord! Envelopes are available in the narthex. Look for the colorful Russian Matryoshka Dolls (stacking dolls). As a reminder, please make checks payable to Siberian Lutheran Mission Society.

Order Altar/Chancel Flowers

The order book, located on the glass case in the narthex, has the following dates available to reserve flowers: 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>2 <u>The Purification of Mary & Presentation of Our Lord</u> 9:30am - Divine Service 10:45am - SCRIP Sales 10:45am - Bible Study & Sunday School</p>	<p>3 6:30pm - Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 8:45am - School Chapel 2pm - Bible Study—IN District Office 7:00pm - Choir Practice School Music Room</p>	<p>6 7am - Men's Bible Study—District Office 9am - Bible Study—District Office</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 5:00pm—St. Paul's School Auction—Baker Street Train Station</p>
<p>9 9:30am - Divine Service 10:45am - SCRIP Sales 10:45am - Bible Study & Sunday School</p>	<p>10 6:30pm - Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 8:45am - School Chapel 2pm - Bible Study—IN District Office 7:00pm - Choir Practice School Music Room</p>	<p>13 7am - Men's Bible Study—District Office 9am - Bible Study—District Office 5:30pm - Elders Mtg 7pm - Church Council</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16 9:30am - Divine Service 10:45am - SCRIP Sales 10:45am - Voters Meeting & Sunday School 5-7pm - Youth Group Meeting in Cafeteria</p>	<p>17 6:30pm - Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 8:45am - School Chapel 2pm - Bible Study—IN District Office 7:00pm - Choir Practice School Music Room</p>	<p>20 7am - Men's Bible Study—District Office 9am - Bible Study—District Office</p>	<p>21 11am—Golden Heirs, lunch at Cracker Barrel on Washington Cntr Rd.</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23 9:30am - Divine Service 10:45am - SCRIP Sales 10:45am - Bible Study & Sunday School</p>	<p>24 <u>St. Mathias, Apostle</u> 6:30pm - Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 8:45am - School Chapel 2pm - Bible Study—IN District Office 7:00pm - Choir Practice School Music Room</p>	<p>27 7am - Men's Bible Study—District Office 9am - Bible Study—District Office 6pm—BOEE Meeting</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>1</p>

PRAY

without ceasing

1 THESSALONIANS 5:17

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

† Noah, Ella, Henry, Winston, Giorgio, Myelle, Sherri Lahrman, Christy Bobay

Gathering In Christ:

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

For those Considering a Call:

† For Charity Felton and Susan Habegger as they are considering Calls to teach at St. Paul's.

Ongoing Chronic Concerns:

† Harris Beck
† Jeff Carrier
† Sandra Cecchini
† Roger Couch
† Nathan Davis
† Nick Demaree
† Joanne Engstrom
† Chris Gill
† Friedrich Hofmann
† Roy Huitt
† Ruth Huitt
† Karen Johnson
† Pam Johnson
† Dennis and Jane Jordan
† Kelly Kochensparger
† Sandy Macon
† Eleanor Marine
† Mary Mundt
† Sara Nordling
† Juan Perez
† Janice Schmidt
† Andrew Scholes
† Wanda Schweyer
† Fred Scott
† Mike Snider
† Sam Suarez
† ...and those who care for them.

Comfort, Health, and Recovery:

† Mark Dunkin
† Sue Keck
† Amun-ra Moore
† Sally Sgro
† Charli Zollinger

Our Homebound Members:

† Neva Aldridge
† Joan Badders
† Myra Carrier
† Mary Ann Cordes
† Jane Doehrmann
† Carolyn Falkenstern
† Gloria Hamer
† Judy Helmchen
† Lonni Helmchen
† Jan Leffel
† Leah Maier
† Joan Messmann
† Lois Meyer
† Ernestine Morrison
† Larry Murphy
† Esther Pinnow
† Leona Puff
† Ron Rastl
† Carolyn Reincke
† Susan Schamberg
† Walter Schroeder
† Rev. Ralph Seilaff
† Dorothy Taylor
† Mary Weick
† Sharon Williams

Serving in the Armed Forces

† KiVuan Edwards	† Sharia Macon
† Cierra Germann	† Jamara Moore-Chambers
† Rev. Brian Hamer	† Rev. Joshua Schiff
† Zachary Harmeyer	† Alexander Sreeton
† Jasmine Jackson	† John Sheaffer Jr.
† Austin Kerr	† Ryan Sheaffer
† Courtney Linnemeier	† Brandon Skalicky

Pray for these saints throughout the week.

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

Please note: All non-members will be removed after six weeks. If you would like them to be on the prayer list longer, please contact one of the pastors.