



The Messenger

Second Sunday after Christmas ~ January 4, 2026

St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School

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

www.stpaulsfw.org

Worship Schedule:

Sunday, January 11, 9:30 a.m.
The Baptism of Our Lord

Bible Study Opportunities

Sunday Morning Bible Study—10:45 a.m.

You are warmly invited to our Bible study series, “Growing, Giving, and Gathering in Christ”. Join us this week as we explore our boldness in Christ, inspired by Philippians 1:14, and grow together in Christ’s Word while encouraging one another. We’ll meet in the gathering space immediately following the Divine Service, grab a donut and coffee on your way in! As a congregation, we grow stronger when we gather together.

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

Pastor Cage is leading this class in which we discuss the chief teachings of the Christian Faith from the Holy Scriptures as presented in the *Small Catechism* of Martin Luther, and prayed each week in the liturgy of the Divine Service at St. Paul’s. Everyone is invited to attend, even if you’re already a member. Meet in the Conference Room across from the water fountain.

Sunday School—Sundays at 10:45 a.m.

Parents, bring your children (ages 2 through high school) to the kitchenette outside the new Gathering Room to eat a snack and then meet up with their teacher before they head down to their classrooms together.

Monday Night Women’s Bible Study—6:30 p.m.

No Bible study this week as school is not in session. Join us next week, January 12, as we continue our journey through Genesis.

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

Join us Wednesday as we finish our series “*Life of David*”, exploring David’s final wishes—fulfilling the Lord’s plan through the life of His great ancestor. Meet with Pastor Cage in the Gathering Room.

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

Men, start your day in God’s Word each Thursday as we prepare with the readings for the upcoming Sunday Divine Service. Meet with Pastor Cage in the Conference Room.

TODAY IN THE DIVINE SERVICE

We welcome Isaac Lee Lind, son of Sam and Cassie Lind, to the waters of Holy Baptism. His sponsors are Gabriel and Haillie Kemper and Ashley Seal. We give thanks to our merciful Lord that He continues to bless His church on earth.

Our Giving For December 28

Budget Envelopes	\$44,262.46
Missions/Lutheran Heritage	\$280.00
Seasonal Envelopes	\$10,655.00
Plate Offerings	\$2,364.67
Poinsettia Donations	\$10.00
School Income	\$493.00
Total Income	\$58,065.13
Gathering In Christ	\$39,872.07
Total of All Donations	\$97,937.20

Attendance

Children’s Christmas Service ~ 6 p.m.	582
Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols ~ 11 p.m.	242
Christmas Day ~ 10 a.m.	217
Sunday, December 28 ~ 9:30 a.m.	304

Serving This Week and Next

Sunday, January 4 ~

Altar Guild: Barb Doerffler and Diane Lewis

Elder: Michael Mabee

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

Sunday, January 11 ~

Altar Guild: Sally Rish and Diana Hunter

Elder: James Goodwin

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

Altar/Chancel Flowers

The Altar flowers have been given to the glory of God by Carolyn Bobay in thanksgiving for her safety during her car accident last week.

Announcements For Consideration Are Due By Wednesday at Noon

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Please No Food or Drinks In Church

As we come together to worship and share in fellowship, we want to ensure our sanctuary remains a respectful and clean environment for everyone. To help us maintain the sanctity of this space, we kindly ask that you refrain from bringing food or drinks into the main sanctuary. This simple act of care helps prevent spills and keeps the space tidy and ready for worship. We encourage you to enjoy refreshments in the Gathering Space after the service. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in preserving our beautiful sanctuary.

St. Paul's Auction Ticket Sales—Jan. 4

This year's auction "Game Night" is coming up on Saturday, February 7, at 5 p.m. at the Baker Street Train Station. Tickets (\$50 per person) go on sale THIS SUNDAY (Jan. 4) in the Gathering Space before and after the service. Plan to join us for an evening of food, fellowship, fun and games!

Golden Heirs—Jan. 9

The Golden Heirs event for January will be lunch at Cebolla's Mexican Restaurant, Times Corners (5930 W. Jefferson) on January 9 at 11:30 a.m. **RSVP to Carole Radtke at radcar1969@comcast.net by January 5.** (If school is cancelled, we will not meet.)

Youth Group Movie Night—Jan. 11

The High School Youth Group will be having a movie night in the Loft on Sunday, January 11 at 6 p.m. Come hang out, eat snacks, and watch "What About Bob?"

Junior Youth Group Open Loft—Jan. 18

All middle schoolers are invited to check out the newly renovated Youth Loft on Sunday, January 18 from 6-7:30 p.m. We have ping-pong, pop-a-shot basketball, board games, snacks and much more! Hope to see you there!

Youth Group Tobogganing—Jan. 25

All high schoolers are invited to join us at Pokagon State Park for toboggan rides on Sunday, January 25! Lunch will be served in the Youth Loft at 11:30 a.m. before we depart. RSVP to Andrea Machemer at amachemer@stpaulsfw.org by January 21.

St. Paul's Choir On Worship Anew

Our Choristers will be featured on January 18. 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: <https://worshipanew.org>.

Volunteers Needed—January 10

Our Board of Elementary Education is organizing another Saturday cleaning day January 10 from 8AM-4PM for volunteers to help clean our school as we did last July. Come for an hour or for all day! We will focus on areas that are not typically addressed by our cleaning service (classrooms, counters, sinks, walls, etc.). Bring your own rags, bucket, cleaning solution, and glass spray. Charles Gieschen and some of our teachers will be present to guide you on areas that need cleaning. Lunch will be provided for those working the morning hours so please call Kris Hall at 260-424-0049 if you are able to join us so we can plan lunch accordingly. Let's be good stewards of this blessed school building where children have been daily nurtured in Jesus Christ for decades.

Offering Envelopes & "Initial" Envelope

Your offering envelopes are mailed to you directly in a packet every two months, unless you have enrolled in electronic giving. The "Initial" offering envelope, the very first one of your 2026 envelopes, is used to defray the expense of purchasing the envelopes. The annual cost for each set is \$6.70, which includes the mailing cost for each packet. 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.

Altar Guild Flower Book

To reserve Altar/Chancel flowers, the order book (located on the wooden stand just outside the new Gathering Room) has the 2026 ordering forms available.

January 18, February 1, 8, and 22 are open.

Reserve a specific date in honor or 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 church (1126 S. Barr St.) **Please mark your envelope specifically for Altar Guild Flowers.** Please pick up your flowers after the service or they will be delivered to our shut-ins.

Questions?

Do you have questions about our ministry programs or events? Contact our Ministry Coordinator, Andrea Machemer at amachemer@stpaulsfw.org.

January 4 – Christmas 2

God used Joseph, who adopted Jesus as his own son (Luke 2:41), to care for our Lord as He (Jesus) mysteriously lived a perfectly human life as our substitute. Through Jesus, God has now adopted us as His own children and has promised us an eternal inheritance in His kingdom (Ephesians 1:5, 11). Christians should be encouraged to likewise consider and promote adoption as a godly way to preserve and care for the lives of God's precious children and bring them into His kingdom.

Installation of Officers

Next Sunday, January 11th, we welcome all new and returning officers, elders, and committee members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School for Year 2026. Please join us for worship and welcome these individuals who are giving of their time and talents to St. Paul's.

Church Council

Chairman: Karl Davis
Vice-Chairman: Daniel Ernst
Secretary: Gail Ludvigson
Treasurer: Carrie Gutman
Financial Secretary:
Ralph Schmidt
Stewardship Chairman:
Paul Grime

Property Trustees

Dave Rish
Jack Hall
David Geller

Fund Trustees

Craig Linnemeier
James Scheele
John Mader

Almoner

Daniel Kramer

District Elders

James Goodwin
Brandon Johnson
Ethan Ernst
David Hein
Samuel Lind
Mark Kuehnert
Jon Keck
Trent Towne
Paul Kroenke
Nathan Wingfield
Michael Mabee

Board of Finance

Michael Mabee
Steve Hackman
Gloria Nash
Chairman: Ralph Schmidt

Board Of Stewardship

Davis Dean
Stewardship Chairman:
Paul Grime

Board of Elementary Education

Charles Gieschen
David Vandre
Stephanie Smith
Brian Kechel
Carrie Kroenke
Joslyn Malfait Mabee

Board of Parish Education

Diana Hunter
Sara Nordling

Board of Youth Ministry

Jamie Roberts
Terra Soto
Matthew Geller

Board of Nominations

Sally Ware
Michelle Kuehnert
Barbara Wietfeldt
Cindy Irie
Michael Mabee
Carla Kleinschmidt

Concordia High School Assoc.

Craig Linnemeier
Carrie Gutman

Lutheran Life Villages

Craig Linnemeier

Lutheran Foundation

Kurt Gutman
Martin Lewis
Craig Linnemeier
David Hawk
John Mader
Andy Whirrett
Mike Hawk
Daniel Kramer

Lutheran Social Services

Elaine Berning
John Huitt

Concordia Cemetery Board

Cindy Irie
Konrad Urberg

Lutheran Senior Care Ministry (LCSM)

James Scheele
Elaine Scheele

Personnel Committee

Chairman: Amy Scae
Treasurer: Carrie Gutman
David Geller
Paul Grime
Kara Mezger
*And representatives from other Boards

January 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 <u>Circumcision & Name of Jesus</u> Church Office Closed	2	3
4 <u>9:30am</u> - Divine Service <u>10:45am</u> - SCRIP Sales <u>10:45am</u> - Bible Study & Sunday School	5	6 Epiphany	7 <u>8:45am</u> - School Chapel <u>2pm</u> - Bible Study	8 <u>7am</u> - Men's Bible Study <u>8:30-9:30am</u> - Mugs of Grace <u>5:30pm</u> - Elders Mtg <u>7pm</u> - Council Mtg	9 <u>11:30am</u> - Golden Heirs lunch at Cebolla's	10 <u>8am-4pm</u> - Winter Cleaning Day YAMS Soup Swap
11 <u>9:30am</u> - Divine Service & Installation of Officers <u>10:45am</u> - SCRIP Sales <u>10:45am</u> - Bible Study & Sunday School 6pm - High School Youth Grp Movie Night in the Loft	12 <u>8:30am</u> - Monday Morning Prayer Group <u>6:30pm</u> - Women's Bible Study	13	14 <u>8:45am</u> - School Chapel <u>2pm</u> - Bible Study	15 <u>7am</u> - Men's Bible Study <u>8:30-9:30am</u> - Mugs of Grace <u>5pm</u> - Youth Board 6pm - BOEE	16 J. Neil Reincke JV Boys Basketball Tournament	17 J. Neil Reincke JV Boys Basketball Tournament
18 <u>Confession of St. Peter</u> J. Neil Reincke JV Boys Basketball Tournament <u>9:30am</u> - Divine Service <u>10:45am</u> - SCRIP Sales <u>10:45am</u> - Bible Study & Sunday School 6pm - Jr. High Youth Grp	19 <u>8:30am</u> - Monday Morning Prayer Group <u>6:30pm</u> - Women's Bible Study	20	21 <u>8:45am</u> - School Chapel <u>2pm</u> - Bible Study	22 <u>7am</u> - Men's Bible Study <u>8:30-9:30am</u> - Mugs of Grace	23	24 <u>St. Timothy, Pastor and Confessor</u>
25 <u>Conversion of St. Paul</u> <u>9:30am</u> - Divine Service <u>10:45am</u> - SCRIP Sales <u>10:45am</u> - Bible Study & Sunday School <u>11:30am</u> - High School Youth Grp to Pokagon	26 <u>St. Titus, Pastor and Confessor</u> <u>National Lutheran Schools Week</u> <u>8:30am</u> - Monday Morning Prayer Group <u>6:30pm</u> - Women's Bible Study	27 <u>National Lutheran Schools Week</u>	28 <u>National Lutheran Schools Week</u> <u>8:45am</u> - School Chapel <u>2pm</u> - Bible Study <u>7:00pm</u> - Choir Practice	29 <u>National Lutheran Schools Week</u> <u>7am</u> - Men's Bible Study <u>8:30-9:30am</u> - Mugs of Grace	30 <u>National Lutheran Schools Week</u>	31

PRAY

without ceasing

1 THESSALONIANS 5:17

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

† Cyrene, Damien, Isaiah, Drayson

Baptismal Life:

† For Isaac Lee Lind, son of Sam and Cassie Lind, baptized during the Divine Service.

Thanksgiving:

† For the protection of Carolyn Bobay during her car accident last week.

For Those Who Mourn:

† For the family of Michael Ryan, father of Nicole Sheaffer, who has been given the gift of eternal life.

Ongoing Chronic Concerns:

† Harris Beck
† Jeff Carrier
† Sandra Cecchini
† Roger Couch
† Nathan Davis
† Sara Davis
† Sharon Davis
† Nick Demaree
† Joanne Engstrom
† Chris Gill
† Brenda Haecker
† Amy Hamer
† Terry Harmeyer
† John Huitt
† Diana Hunter
† Juanita Jefferson
† Karen Johnson
† Pam Johnson
† Jerry Jones
† Dennis and Jane Jordan
† Dennis Lloyd
† Eleanor Marine
† Sara Nordling
† Janice Schmidt
† Wanda Schweyer
† Sam Suarez
† Denise Trentadue
† Timothy Wheaton
† Heidi Williams
† ...and those who care for them.

Comfort, Health, and Recovery:

† Gracelynn Anderson
† Brenda Cozad
† Ann Fritz
† Mark Kramer
† Ron Rastl
† Rosa Villalobos
† Martha Young

Our Homebound Members:

† Neva Aldridge
† Myra Carrier
† Mary Ann Cordes
† Jane Doehrmann
† Carolyn Falkenstern
† Judy Helmchen
† Llonni Helmchen
† Jan Leffel
† Joan Messmann
† Lois Meyer
† Ernestine Morrison
† Larry Murphy
† Esther Pinnow
† Leona Puff
† 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

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.