



The Messenger

Third Sunday in Advent ~ December 14, 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.

You are strongly encouraged and warmly invited to join us as we welcome Rev. Dr. Aric Fenske, the national Executive Director of Lutherans for Life. Pastor Fenske will be reflecting on the precious gift of life that God grants to every person. Together, we will be reminded of the Church's joyful calling to uphold, protect, and speak for those who are vulnerable and unable to speak for themselves. Be strengthened, inspired, and blessed as we stand together for all life in Jesus' name. We will meet in the Gathering Space immediately following the Divine Service. Grab a donut and coffee on your way in.

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

Class will resume next week, December 21.

Sunday School—Sundays at 10:45 a.m.

Parents, bring your children (ages 2 through 8th grade) 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. Just a reminder, next Sunday, December 21 we'll have our Birthday Party for Jesus in the Nerger room!

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

You are cordially invited to join Pastor and Kristin Hoem at their home for a brief devotion and Christmas celebration. If you would like to participate in the ornament exchange, please bring a wrapped ornament (\$5-\$10). Feel free to bring an appetizer. Drinks and fun will be provided! A great opportunity to bring a friend!

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

Join us Wednesday as we continue our series "Life of David", exploring David's final wishes and his securing of Solomon on the throne—fulfilling the Lord's plan through the life of His great ancestor. Meet with Pastor Cage in the new 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 new Conference Room.

Worship Schedule:

Sunday, December 14, 9:30 a.m.

Third Sunday in Advent

Wednesday, December 17

Noon ~ *Responsive Prayer*

6:30 p.m. ~ *Evening Prayer*

Our Giving For December 7

Budget Envelopes	\$17,514.58
Missions/Lutheran Heritage	\$103.42
Seasonal Envelopes	\$225.00
Plate Offerings	\$361.25
School Income	\$3,572.88
Total Income	\$21,777.13
PEF/Student Assistance	\$100.00
Gathering In Christ	\$24,247.87
Total of All Donations	\$46,125.00

Attendance

Dec. 3 Advent noon - 152 (students); 6:30pm - 115

Dec. 7, Sunday - 9:30 a.m. Divine Service 277

Dec. 10 Advent noon - 148 (students); 6:30pm - 95

Serving This Week and Next

Sunday, December 14 ~

Altar Guild: Raquel Geller and Margo Ernst

Elder: Trent Towne

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

Sunday, December 21 ~

Altar Guild: Carrie Gutman and Wendy Linnemeier

Elder: Paul Kroenke

Ushers: Dan Wietfeldt, David Vandre, Josh Vandre,
Joshua Richman, Karl Davis, Kevan Davis, Ken
Baker, Lindani Baker, Barry Mezger

Altar/Chancel Flowers

The Altar flowers have been given to the glory of God by Jennifer Nash in memory of Dr. F. Richard and Mildred Roese.

The Chancel flowers have been given to the glory of God by Judi Parrot in memory of Keith Parrot.

Announcements For Consideration Are Due By Wednesday at Noon

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Advent Midweek Services and Suppers

Join us as we prepare our hearts for the coming of our Savior. Our midweek Advent services continue on **Wednesday, December 17 at noon and 6:30 p.m.** A traditional soup supper will be served in the Neger Room starting at 5:00 p.m. Come for food and fellowship before being fed God's Word!

Deck The Halls—December 19

Decorating the church for Christmas has been a fun tradition for many in our congregation over the years. We will finish decorating on Friday, Dec. 19 beginning at 9:00 a.m. Please consider helping us!

Quarterly Voters Assembly December 21

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

High School Youth Group Christmas Party

All high schoolers are invited to come to the Youth Loft after the service on Sunday, December 21 for a Christmas Get-Together!

Jr. High Youth Christmas Party—Dec. 21

Our Junior High Youth Group is off to a fantastic start this year! All students in grades 6–8 are invited to join us for a festive Christmas Party filled with fun and holiday cheer. We'll enjoy cookie decorating, games, a gift exchange, and plenty of sweet treats! Parents, please drop your kids off at the church doors by the elevator on **Sun. Dec. 21, from 6:00–7:30pm.** And don't forget, a **wrapped \$5 gift card** is needed for the gift exchange!

St. Paul's Choir On Worship Anew

Our Choristers will be featured on December 21, 24 and 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-3PM 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.

St. Paul's Upcoming Special Services

You're invited to Advent & Christmas at St. Paul's! Find peace, hope, and joy this season as we prepare for the birth of Christ.

- Advent Midweek Services – Dec. 17, at noon & 6:30 p.m., Supper at 5:00 p.m.
- Christmas Eve Children's Service – Dec. 24, 6:00 p.m.
- Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols – Dec. 24, 11:00 p.m.
- Christmas Day Divine Service – Dec. 25, 10:00 a.m.
- New Year's Eve – Dec. 31, 6:30 p.m.



Poinsettia Donations Needed

Poinsettia plants have been added to the beauty of the altar area for Christmas services. Please consider a donation to the church, marked for Poinsettias to help cover the cost of these flowers.

Altar Guild Flower Book

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

Mugs of Grace—Thursdays 8:30-9:30 a.m.

Moms, start your Thursday with warmth and connection! Swing by the new Gathering Space for a cozy drink, lively conversation, and a chance to meet other amazing moms. All moms are welcome! Friendships (and coffee!) await!

Questions?

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

December 14 – Advent 3

God sends us, like John, to be His messengers and share His Gospel with the world before He comes (Matthew 11:10). Instead of grumbling against one another (James 5:9), we have the privilege of sharing Christ's forgiveness, comfort, and encouragement with those having feeble knees and anxious hearts (Isaiah 35:3-4), especially with those frightened women facing surprise pregnancies, women enduring the cross of barrenness, and those carrying the guilt of abortion.

December 2025

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1 <u>8am</u> - Monday Morning Prayer Group <u>6:30pm</u> - Women's Bible Study	2	3 <u>Noon</u> - Advent Service <u>2pm</u> - Bible Study <u>5:00pm</u> - Advent Supper <u>6:30pm</u> - Advent Service <u>7:30pm</u> - Choir Practice	4 <u>7am</u> - Men's Bible Study <u>8:30-9:30am</u> - Mugs of Grace	5 <u>9am</u> - Decorate for Christmas in the Sanctuary <u>4-8pm</u> - City of Churches Tour	6
7 <u>9:30am</u> - Divine Service <u>10:45am</u> - SCRIP Sales <u>10:45am</u> - Bible Study & Sunday School <u>10:45am</u> - Ladies Aid Cookie Walk	8 <u>8am</u> - Monday Morning Prayer Group <u>6:30pm</u> - Women's Bible Study	9	10 <u>Noon</u> - Advent Service <u>2pm</u> - Bible Study <u>5:00pm</u> - Advent Supper <u>6:30pm</u> - Advent Service <u>7:30pm</u> - Choir Practice	11 <u>7am</u> - Men's Bible Study <u>8:30-9:30am</u> - Mugs of Grace <u>6pm</u> - Elders/Council Mtg	12 <u>10:30am</u> - Golden Heirs Christmas Social <u>6:00pm</u> - Early Childhood Christmas Program	13 <u>5:00pm</u> - YAMS Christmas Party
14 <u>9:30am</u> - Divine Service <u>10:45am</u> - SCRIP Sales <u>10:45am</u> - Life Presentation & Sunday School	15 <u>8am</u> - Monday Morning Prayer Group <u>6:30pm</u> - Women's Bible Study	16	17 <u>Noon</u> - Advent Service <u>2pm</u> - Bible Study <u>5:00pm</u> - Advent Supper <u>6:30pm</u> - Advent Service <u>7:30pm</u> - Choir Practice	18 <u>7am</u> - Men's Bible Study <u>8:30-9:30am</u> - Mugs of Grace <u>6pm</u> - BOEE	19 <u>9am</u> - Decorate for Christmas in the Sanctuary	20
21 <u>9:30am</u> - Divine Service <u>10:45am</u> - SCRIP Sales <u>10:45am</u> - Voters' Party for Jesus <u>10:45am</u> - SS Bday <u>6:00pm</u> - JH Youth Christmas Party	22	23	24 Church Office Closed <u>6pm</u> - Children's Christmas Service <u>11pm</u> - Lessons & Carols	25 Christmas Church Office Closed <u>10:00am</u> - Christmas Day Divine Service	26	27
28 <u>9:30am</u> - Divine Service <u>10:45am</u> - SCRIP Sales	29	30	31 <u>6:30pm</u> - New Year's Eve Divine Service	1 Church Office Closed	2	3

PRAY

without ceasing

1 THESSALONIANS 5:17

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

† Carsyn, Devyn, Rhyen

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
† Ann Fritz
† Mark Kramer
† Madison Staton
† Rosa Villalobos

Our Homebound Members:

† Neva Aldridge
† Myra Carrier
† Mary Ann Cordes
† Jane Doehermann
† Carolyn Falkenstern
† Judy Helmchen
† Lonni Helmchen
† Jan Leffel
† Joan Messmann
† Lois Meyer
† Ernestine Morrison
† Larry Murphy
† Esther Pinnow
† Leona Puff
† Ron Rastl
† 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.